

TOM – Prolog

The problem with people like me (Tired Old Man aka TOM) wasn't the rigidity with which they stood by their favorite firearms. The M1A made some sense as did the 590A1 and the PT-1911. At the same time, why not the Super Match with a really good scope and Surefire suppressor? Living in California was enough of an excuse for going for the Loaded model as opposed to the Super Match. The difference in price was about the cost of a second Loaded model.

The Remington 870 was better built than the 590A1; ask me, I'd owned 4 870s over the years. If I really had 20 of the T-57 magazines and a Taurus PT-1911, I already was breaking 2 laws so getting a suppressor shouldn't have bothered me. The T-57 held 20 rounds and the PT-1911 wasn't on the approved list, hence wasn't registered with the California DOJ. I could get genuine USGI 20-round M14 magazines made by CMI through 44 mag dot com and a cutout.

Both the magazines I had and the Taurus came from the same cutout. But, in early June of 2012, I shipped all five of my firearms to that source and I no longer had any firearms. California wasn't a very nice place to live, especially if you were a conservative Republican.

Three people had changed California, Purdy, Roberti and Roos. Purdy used a Chinese Type 56 assault rifle to open fire on a playground, killing five children and wounding thirty others including one teacher. Roberti and Roos got the Assault Weapons Control Act of 1989 passed. If that weren't enough, it was updated in 1999, followed by the .50 Caliber BMG Regulation Act of 2004.

As a result of the ban, the Barrett Firearms Company announced it would no longer sell to or service any of its rifles in the possession of any California government agency. Despite the legislature's claim of a terrorist threat, as of 2012, there have been no terrorist attacks involving a .50 BMG. In fact, not only has the .50 BMG never been used to harm or kill anyone in California, there is no record of a .50 BMG rifle ever being used in the United States to commit a crime. ('They' prefer horizontal 9mm pistols)

To add insult to injury, I love the looks of the Tac-50A1R2.

TOM – Chapter 1

“You know I never leave the house except to go to the doctor. Derek has been pushing to get us to move to Lake City. I wouldn’t mind visiting my firearms now that he got the M1A straightened out.”

“What was wrong with the M1A?”

“Oh, I never bought a cleaning kit with the tool and chamber brush. I suggested he try a .45 caliber brush on the chamber and he cleaned it out and it works perfectly now.”

“What about the girls?”

“What about the girls? We rarely see Lorrie; and, Amy and her two kids are a pain in the butt. You spend more time with them than she does. Jeffrey is with his father in Minnesota and he’s a brat.”

“What about the house?”

“We call Damon and fly him out. We can rent a U-Haul truck and load those things that we can’t live without and have him drive it to Arkansas. Let the mortgage company have the house since its worth much less than we owe them. If we time it right, we can open a checking account in Jonesboro and transfer our money to the new account. We can put stop payments on the automatic withdrawals and notify Social Security and IPERS of our new account number. We can get the bank to transfer any deposits until the address changes take place.”

“Does it get hot there?”

“Yep.”

“Humid?”

“Very. Stay inside during the day and only go out at night after it cools off; excluding doctor appointments.”

“For two cents...”

“Here’s a dime, keep the change.”

“What, no quarter? Who is going to tell the girls?”

“You tell Lorrie and I’ll tell Amy. She hates my guts anyway, so I have less to lose.”

That’s how it began. Sharon thought it over for a while and talked to Sister Shirley. When she got Shirley to agree, we were set. We went through the shed setting out doll

boxes and the plates. There wasn't anything else left in there that tripped my trigger. Next, we went through the food, taking the rice and coffee and some odds and ends. Third, we went through the garage choosing what absolutely had to go with us... it wasn't much, the generator, gasoline, kerosene and some odds and ends. Even took the leaking tire off the generator and had the leak repaired.

Finally, we went through the house, reassembling the good stainless and packing the good service for 12 of china and glassware. She boxed the dolls and we got the Vet to check over Elizabeth (my dog). She said to keep treating her with Benadryl for her allergies. The final things, except for my computer, external HDD and monitor we packed up in the original boxes. I had those boxes too, but would save them for last.

"Amy, I figure it will take them several months to foreclose. You can live here until you're evicted and only pay the utilities. Anything we leave behind is yours to keep and or sell after we get there and figure out what we didn't bring. Ship it UPS and we'll send you a Wal-Mart money order. You should be able to cash it at a Wal-Mart store. We went to see Dr. J 2 months in a row and have enough to tide me over until we can line up a new doctor and get health insurance to supplement Medicare."

Just so you'll know, I read the Prolog when I proofread this. Some things were going to change. I'd forgotten about the cloth and yarn in the shed. Sharon didn't. We would need the large box van. She also had her sewing table, etc. standing by ready to go. I had a few plans myself and didn't mention them. Springfield Armory, Glock and Mossberg 590A1 SPX and maybe another Taurus PT-1911B-1 with the rail.

In reverse order, Item #50771 590A1 SPX, MSRP: \$842.00; Glock 21SF, Glock 30SF and Glock 36 in an ankle holster, MSRP: TBD, less than \$1,500, M1A, Super Match, SA9102 action in the McMillan M3A black cheek piece stock. Simple, only 3 calibers/gauges of ammunition required. Derek had my cleaning kit and all I need was a Mil-Spec tools set to provide a very close substitute to the original military buttstock cleaning kits. M1A/M14 Kit includes four-piece steel cleaning rod, patch loop tip, .30 caliber bronze bore brush, M14 tapered chamber brush, M14 combo tool, dual-reservoir oiler and OD green rod pouch. Add a spray can of CLP and a bottle of Hoppes #9.

Ammo for the M1A would be M118LR purchased in 500 round boxes from Lucky Gunner. Ammo for the .45s would be Lawman Cleanfire 230gr FMJ and Gold Dot 230gr. The former for practice and the latter for carry. The 12 gauge shells would be those expensive Brenneke 3" 1 $\frac{3}{8}$ oz Black Magic slugs, 3" Remington 15-pellet 00 buckshot and 3" Remington 41-pellet #4 buckshot. I don't hunt and haven't for over 40 years. Those Brenneke 3" 1 $\frac{3}{8}$ oz Black Magic slugs cost double regular slugs, \$2 per round.

Since Derek had all of my knives, I planned on picking up a Cold Steel 24" Latin Machete, and a Spyderco CO8 Harpy to complement the bayonet on the Mossberg. I didn't need a bayonet for the Super Match because it was strictly a long range proposition. I planned to use A.R.M.S. throw lever mounts to hold a variable riflescope. Suppressors would be available in Arkansas... for a lot of money and a long wait. The USMC used

the AN/PVS-27 MUNS night vision. They probably got GSA pricing and only paid \$7,700. MSRP was ~\$11,000, if you could find one.

On the fateful day, Damon finished loading and we headed to Victorville to pick up I-15 north. We led, he followed. We kept in touch with a pair of FRS radios we picked up at Radio Shack. They were the long range models... ½ mile. When we got to Barstow, we turned east on I-40 and stopped in Kingman for the night.

The second day of travel brought us to Albuquerque and our second overnight. Found a nice genuine Mexican restaurant and I had Chile Rellenos. We made it to Oklahoma City on a long third day and got rooms. Sharon's back was killing her and I gave her a Norco, reluctantly. I was down to about 800 tablets and she doesn't like to take them. I was also down to around 800 Xanax 0.5mg tablets.

About the pills... I have osteoarthritis in my right shoulder and when I rotate it the noise gets me the Norco... I fudge, it doesn't hurt. The Xanax is prescribed 0.5mg TID, for anxiety. I only take 1mg QD to turn my brain off at night and let the 100mg of Benadryl put me to sleep.

The fourth day put us in Lake City in the late evening. Fortunately, Derek and Mary had a recliner and Sharon could finally get a good night's sleep. I took the couch and Damon got the floor. Derek found a house for rent in Lake City and we did the paperwork the following day and moved in. Erik arrived with Damon's Jeep and we turned in the truck in Jonesboro, they took me home and headed northbound and down.

I accidently brought the rented medical equipment, the CPAP, the oxygen concentrator and the nebulizer. Oh well...

TOM – Chapter 2

It took 2 months to get sorted out and settled in. Sharon took the master bedroom for her sewing room and doll cases. She got the banking arrangements made and they would send us a check for free or wire transfer, for a fee. Free is good and it was a cashier's check.

First things first, we rebuilt our food supply after we bought a chest freezer, 25ft³. She likes tri-tip, chicken, pork chops and pork steak. I like anything made with hamburger due to my loss of teeth to diabetes. The nearest Costco store was in Memphis, about 55 miles as the crow flies. I'm not a crow and we took the roads. Still, it wasn't that long of a journey and we spent more time in Costco than driving. We filled 2 of those jumbo 150 quart Igloo coolers with meat. We bought some boneless pork loins and I cut up some pork chops and rolled a pair of loins together, tied the roll and cut off pork roasts. There's a Sam's Club in Jonesboro.

Rather than repeat some of our previous issues, we bought pails of beans from Rainy Day Foods (Walton Feed). Arkansas is a major rice producer and we got 200 pounds of Jasmine rice, which we put up in pails ourselves. We watched the sales and bought the limit of Folgers coffee every time it was on sale. I got lucky and talked her into Charmin tissue. In Palmdale, the ground shakes and cracks the sewer pipe allowing roots to grow into it. Charmin clogged the sewer line.

Derek helped me assemble shelving in the basement. They didn't have a basement and I told them to come here for tornado warnings. It was ordinary steel shelving, with bracing at the top of all the sets.

Oregon Scientific didn't get rich with the 4 WR-602s we bought; two for us and two for Derek and Mary. That was all we bought for them since he had my entire gun and knife collection. He knew someone with a commercial belt type knife sharpener and we had sharp kitchen knives for the first time in years.

Thus began my little *Crusade* to replace all I held near and dear. The first purchase was the cutting implements, the Cold Steel 24" Latin machete and the Spyderco CO8 Harpy. Next was a set of 6 diamond sharpening stones from DMT, including the extra-extra fine sharpener. Those were mail order from bestsharpeningstones dot com and were expensive. Next, I found a used belt type sharpener and bought a package of new belts. No dull kitchen knives, forever! It put a fine edge on the machete, too.

The only time in my life I'd used a machete was during the '50s, cutting corn out of a bean field... with a dull 24" machete.

The first firearm I purchased was the #50771 590A1 SPX and the first ammo purchase was 3 cases of the 3" shells... slugs, 00 buckshot and #4 buckshot. That was followed by a period of saving up for the 3 Glock pistols, holsters, extra magazines and ammo.

By the time I had the pistols, holsters and extra magazines, I had to borrow Gold Dot from Derek and get my unrestricted CCW. Yes, we'd been there 90 days and I had an Arkansas Driver's License. (Sharon had to teach me how to drive the Honda; it had been 10 years since I'd driven a car and they weren't simple any longer. Did you know you don't need a key?)

It's a good thing I didn't have 4 handguns, the CCW only allows 3. Naturally, the next purchase was the Speer ammo, 2,000 rounds of Lawman Cleanfire FMJ and 2,000 rounds of Gold Dot. I promptly replaced the ammo Derek loaned me. That got me started on my savings program for my custom Super Match. It was custom by virtue of the fact that it had a carbon barrel in an M3A thumbwheel stock. They had everything on hand to assemble the rifle, but it was going to cost extra because the custom shop had to do the assembly.

While I slowly accumulated the four grand for the rifle, I got 22 25-round CMI magazines from 44 mag dot com. I also bought 4 5-round magazines in case Derek and I went hunting, an unlikely prospect. His friend was reloading his brass with 168gr BTHP bullets to match standards. I asked and his friend could reload the M118LR with Sierra MatchKing Hollow Point Boat Tail bullets. He could even duplicate the powder load and weighed the powder for each round. I forked over money for the bullets, primers and powder.

I finally received the Super Match around Thanksgiving 2013. Derek was scheduled to report for training on January 1, 2014 prior to his deployment to Afghanistan on April 1, 2014. And no, not even a Sergeant First Class can carry a Rambo II into combat. Back in July or August of 2012, we were discussing his service in Iraq. Like a fool I asked him if he ever had to shoot at or shoot someone. His response was, "I did my job." I think that explains the PTSD he experienced when he got home. Keep in mind that the first time is always the hardest. I later learned that the second was harder than the first. He said he'd give anything to be stupid.

Anyway, I got the A.R.M.S. mounts for Christmas from Sharon. I selected a Zeiss Conquest 3-9x40 MC Waterproof Riflescope, Matte Black with the #4 reticle for only \$499.99 from Optics Planet. I took it to a gun dealer in Jonesboro and had the mounts and scope installed. He sighted it in with a laser bore sight. I also inquired where I might find a class three dealer who sold Surefire suppressors. He smiled and I could see the dollar signs in his eyes. I had no intentions of installing night vision on the Super Match, yet.

Around the first of April, I ponied up the \$1,800 for the suppressor with muzzle brake adapter and filled out the paperwork for the ATF. I'd gotten fingerprints from the Arkansas State Police, the same as I did with the CCW application. It was approved, by the way. You no longer needed the approval of local law enforcement on ATF applications.

I got the suppressor around the time we expected Derek to come home, December, 2014. He got home in one piece, praise the Lord. However he had a haunted look about him; PTSD, again. This time I knew better than ask. There were no bullet holes or shrapnel wounds and I counted my blessings.

The drought of 2012 and 2013 disappeared in 2014. And despite his claims, Obama didn't stop it. Just one of many outrageous claims from his camp. Yes, he managed to get reelected... despite Joe Biden. But it was oh so close. He didn't get tax legislation passed or a new assault weapons ban. He might have if the list wasn't so all inclusive. Be that as it may, I'm continuing on my quest to get 5,000 rounds of M118LR from Lucky Gunner. At a buck a round, it's taking a while.

On the other hand, I have my eye on a McMillan Tac-50A1R2. I think maybe I'll just go with the Elite Iron suppressor but I will get 10 magazines total and the McCann Night Vision Rail. I got parts kits from Springfield Armory for the Loaded and Super Match. The price of ammo just keeps slipping up because of the government purchases. I don't really believe they need 450 million rounds of hollow point. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and its Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) have made a purchase that is making a lot of people very nervous. Recently they put in for an "indefinite delivery" of an "indefinite quantity" of .40 caliber ammunition from defense contractor ATK. The two agencies will receive a maximum of 450 million rounds over the next 5 years.

"We are proud to extend our track record as the prime supplier of .40 caliber duty ammunition for DHS, ICE," said Ron Johnson, President of ATK's Security and Sporting group. "The HST is a proven design that will continue to serve those who keep our borders safe." ATK will produce the ammunition at the Federal Cartridge Company facility in Anoka, MN. Deliveries are expected to begin in June. (CCI, Speer, Lawman, and Blazer ammunition)

I didn't vote for Mitt Romney... but I did vote for Paul Ryan. You know DHS might need the ammo if Obama is like Bill Clinton and would like to be President for life. There is something like 260 million firearms in the United States, most in the hands of conservatives. Nobody is that stupid. He just needs to finish his 2nd term and build his library. I've only been to two Presidential Libraries, Nixon and Reagan.

Got the last 1,000 rounds of M118LR and have the Super Match sighted in. I believe I should have bought a better scope. I'm only good to 800 meters and was sure I could shoot accurately to 1 klick. Oh well, that Tac-50 is closer to becoming a reality and I'm going with the 12-42x56 Nightforce NXS scope. I'd ask Derek for more ammo but the largest rifle ammo they have is 5.56x45mm and the smallest other ammo they have is 155mm and 280mm. He's in charge of a counter-fire target acquisition unit. They have an AN/TPQ-36 Firefinder and not the AN/TPQ-37 Firefinder.

"Sucking hind teat?"

“Actually the 36 is better than the 37. It’s the government, Dad; they improve it until older is better.”

“I have something to explain; do you want the good news or bad news first?”

“The bad news, I guess.”

“When I die, you have to give all 5 of those guns I gave you to Damon.”

“But...”

“The good news is that when I die, you get my entire gun collection and ammo plus any additions I’ve made to the collection. Were you serious about being able to get Mk211MP?”

“Dead serious. Why, you planning on buying a .50BMG rifle?”

“I’m saving for it even as we speak. I didn’t put night vision on the Super Match but I plan to add it to the Tac-50. How much is it going to cost?”

“Five dollars a round, six hundred per can.”

“A can is 120 rounds?”

“Yep.”

“I figure 50-50 between Mk211MP and 750gr Hornady A-MAX Match. Twenty cans of Raufoss and 12 cases of Hornady. That will give me 2,400 rounds of each.”

“I don’t know how to break the news, but we aren’t at war.”

“At the moment. What do you know about Future History?”

“Sounds like an oxymoron.”

“Some call it speculative fiction and others call it science fiction. Are you absolutely positive the sun will rise in the east and set in the west? Do you really trust the US Government?”

“Pretty sure and no, in the order asked.”

“How are you on ammo?”

“Beyond adding 200 rounds of .32acp, about the same.”

TOM – Chapter 3

“About the Sauer, you don’t have to give it to Damon. Just carry the Glocks and let Mary carry the Sauer. Damon can buy his own bayonet.”

“You know how I feel about bayonets and I don’t like Glocks.”

“Humor me.”

It took 15 months to acquire the Tac-50, suppressor and 8 extra magazines. I was waiting on the suppressor and the Night Vision. While Optics Planet previously showed the AN/PVS-27 as discontinued, they now had it on their website for \$11,288; another envelope project. Half my free money went for ammo and the other half into the night vision envelope.

Let’s face it, I was 71 years young and felt like I was older than George Burns. I added Centrum Silver to the Vitamin D3. I also walked the two blocks and back to Derek and Mary’s, daily. Finally, I began drinking Ensure for breakfast and lunch. Brought my a1c down to 6.5. Sharon insisted that that’s what brought down her a1c to 6.3. I preferred the malt flavor while she preferred the vanilla and two clear favors, peach and blueberry-pomegranate.

Once I completed the first pass, I was going to add a Ruger SR-556 and some surplus M855. I’d get 20 30-round magazines, 18 in pouches, one in the rifle and one in a buttstock ammo pouch. Assuming the feds were done buying up ammo. Lake City might not be running 24/7 but they had to build up the reserve ammo stock. As I’ve mentioned before, any lot not up to specs and any overruns has an X added and is sold commercially, like XM855A1. Ammoman specifically disagrees with me, check the website.

I’m fairly sure Sharon can handle a 9mm so I’ll probably get her a Glock 19. She shot Roy’s 12 gauge so I’ll add another #50771 590A1 SPX. Like I said XM855A1 for the rifle, the same shotgun ammo I use and Speer 124gr Lawman and 124gr +P Gold Dot. A belt holster for the Glock and a Galco purse when she’s carrying concealed. Finally when I have enough saved up, I might get my own 5.56x45mm rifle with an A1 lower and gas piston upper. I wonder if I can get my hands on an HK416. Nah...

Am I expecting a war? Yep, a revolt with we the people facing off with our oppressive government. I’m 71 at the moment and about as mobile as I was when I was 68, due to the walks to Derek and Mary’s. I finally got my diabetes under control due to the new doctor. I still sweat a lot but it’s the humidity not the blood sugar.

We’ve taken to buying breast quarters and thigh quarters and baking hens for the freezer. I’ll eat chicken occasionally. Next time Damon heads this way, I’m going to ask him to bring a cooler full of frozen breaded pork tenderloins. I really miss them. Happy Joe’s has frozen Taco Pizzas to go and I might have him get a few of those, too.

Moving to California wasn't the smartest decision I ever made, let me tell you. We gave up Maid-Rites, breaded pork tenderloins and Happy Joe's Taco Pizzas. We moved in '82 and the Stockton Massacre occurred in '89. I should have gone back to Iowa and back to being a corporate tax auditor. They had the out-of-state auditor program going then and weren't sending the corporate auditors out of the office. The pay cut would have been hard to handle, for sure.

Step by step, one weapon at a time, we were working on rebuilding my firearms collection. The SR-556s would take the place of my two Mini-14s and the 590A1s taking the place of my 870s. Winchester was slowly bringing back historical firearms and when they got around to the 9422, let me tell you! I bought an 1886, 1892 and a 9422.

I was as enamored with the Ruger single actions as I'd always been and I was thinking about Blackhawks in .45 Colt. For old time's sake I might consider one M1911, a PT1911B-1 with the rail. It wouldn't mean buying different ammunition.

Meanwhile, I had the suppressor and was close to the AN/PVS-27. Three months tops. Then, we'd equip Sharon and see about getting me a 5.56×45mm for jungle fighting. There aren't any jungles in the area; wasn't that the rationale for dumping the M14 in favor of the poodle shooter? Snipers in 'Nam averaged 1.3 shots per kill. The average soldier and Marine averaged about 50,000 rounds per kill. That's why the Marine Corps wanted the A2. Their issue weapon is now the A4, an upgraded A2.

Derek said he was issued an M-4 when he deployed to backup his M-9. And, the entire time he was there, they carried a magazine in the buttstock pouch and one in the carbine... empty chamber. He swears by the carburetor cleaner and CLP. Fair enough as long as I can have a bottle of Hoppes.

They had a carbine and in some cases pistols available 24/7 and he spent 99% of his time in a bunker

Referring to the .45 Colt, Wiki says, some hand loads and factory manufactured cartridges put this round in the same class as the .44 Magnum. These loads cannot be used in any original Colt Single-Action Army or replica thereof, such as those produced by Uberti, Beretta, the Taurus Gaucho, or the Ruger New Vaquero, as these guns are built on the smaller frame with thinner cylinder walls. These loads should be used only in modern large-frame revolvers such as the Ruger Blackhawk, Redhawk, Ruger Vaquero (erroneously referred to as the "Old Model" to differentiate it from the "New Model"), Thompson Center Contender or any gun firing the .454 Casull cartridge. Modern rifles with strong actions (such as the Winchester Model 1894, Marlin Model 1894, and new clones of the Winchester Model 1892) chambered for the cartridge can safely handle the heavier loadings.

Forget Marlin, thanks to Remington! Guess I'll have to go with the Ruger Blackhawk and Winchesters, if I get into single actions. In most of my recent stories, I've recommended

single action revolvers and lever action rifles on the assumption that in a PAW scenario regular ammo would be in short supply and you'd be required to use black powder or Pyrodex and cast your own bullets. Wheel weights used to be an acceptable substitute for lead until they went to zinc wheel weights. The beauty of zinc is that the bullet is 'armor piercing'. Be sure to load a full 40 grains of black powder. [Update: Marlin is back.]

Got the MUNS in the mail today and there was money left over so I bought Sharon her first handgun, the Glock 19. Won't be long before she has the Mossberg and we'll have a pair of the SR-556s within a year. We've discussed it and are planning on going with the ProMag like Ruger ships with the rifle. We also tentatively agreed to buy the E model and equip them with EOTech HHS II magnifying sights. Dallas SWAT team on TV uses them. I'm sure we'll need backup folding iron sights, but haven't decided on which brand. I read a review a few years back and I'll be darned if I can remember which brand was best. It evaluated Troy Industries, A.R.M.S, MA Tech BUIS and GG&G iron sights. Ruger uses the Troy sights and I think we should pick up two sets.

Check that, I got overruled. We are buying 2 of the overpriced standard model rifles plus the EOTech HHS II magnifying sights, quote, *come hell or high water*, end quote. There was no threat about sleeping on the couch, she's been sleeping in a recliner and I've been sleeping in a twin bed since 1988 or 1989. Needless to say, we bought what she decided we wanted. As nearly as I could determine, and I could be wrong, the Ruger upper wouldn't mate with an A1 lower. Plus .50BMG ammo is expensive. A 200 round case of 750gr Hornady A-MAX is at least a grand and the cans of Mk211MP were \$600 each. I'm not even going to try and get rockets or grenades. I will gladly accept donations.

Derek was now talking about reenlisting for 4 more when he reached 20. The conversation we had on the subject turned into an argument and we dropped it. I pointed out Korea, Kosovo, Iraq and Afghanistan as four reasons not to re-up. He suggested that it was unlikely that the US would have boots on the ground overseas anytime soon. Maybe, but I suggested he should never say never.

After Connery had finished filming *Diamonds are Forever* he had pledged that he would "never" play Bond again. Connery's wife, Micheline, suggested the title *Never Say Never Again*, referring to her husband's vow and the producers acknowledged her contribution by listing on the end credits *Title "Never Say Never Again" by: Micheline Connery*. A final attempt by Fleming's trustees to block the film was made in the High Courts in London in the spring of 1983, but these were thrown out by the court and *Never Say Never Again* was permitted to proceed.

Funny, I always attributed the expression to FDR or Harry S. Truman. Just the hell who is Justin Bieber? Saw his name in the paper a while back related to ruffing up a photographer. Seemed to me that it was justified.

Maybe it was good he was going for 4 more. That would allow me to get several more cans of the Mk211MP. Got the Tac-50 shooting good to 1,500 meters. Derek can hold a fair group to 2 clicks, within the guaranteed 0.5MOA. Felt sorry for him and gave him the Zeiss scope for the Loaded and got me a Night Force 8-32x56mm NXS Mil Dot Illuminated Reticle Riflescope with the A.R.M.S. Base and Throw Lever Rings for the Super Match. He was going to need his own suppressor, but he could pay for a suppressor with 2-3 cans of Mk211MP.

The fact of the matter was that it wouldn't be an official Tired Old Man story until I had the grenades and rockets, but I didn't tell him that. Furthermore he admitted to not reading the stories on the CD I'd sent him when I sent my firearms. He did point out that the reloaded ammo was on par with Hornady match and Federal match. Given it was Berdan primed, I strongly suggested he acquire some boxer primed ammo, perhaps the 168gr Hornady.

I'm what some would describe as a cynical skeptic. Probably comes from being stationed at Edwards AFB near the time of the adoption of Murphy's Laws. It was like that time we did a flow test on a nozzle design. Darnedest thing you ever saw. Holes in the side of the nozzle squirting propellant or oxidizer and the other coming out of the face plate. We even used colored water and filmed the test. They added a combustion chamber and nozzle and ran a test. Blew up in a spectacular fashion about 1 second into the test. The propellant and oxidizer have to be added in a certain sequence... can't remember which. But I seem to recall you need an oxidizer lead. In common usage, the term *hypergolic propellant* are often used to mean the most common such propellant combination, hydrazine (N_2H_4) plus nitrogen tetroxide (N_2O_4), or their relatives. We used a lot of both back then.

"Dad, can you store this box with the Mk211?"

"Sure. What's in it?"

"Do not open except in case of war."

"Explosive?"

"You bet."

"Got ya. When do I get the rest?"

"We're still working on these."

"Thirty per case, right?"

"Yep."

“Remember the others come 5 to the case and 3 cases to the crate.”

“I know but they’re hard to come by.”

“Say, what the heck is with the extra stripe?”

“You didn’t know I took the next school?”

“I thought you were off on your two week summer exercise.”

“Nah, we did that earlier.”

“I see more of Mary and the kids than I do of you.”

“The diamond means First Sergeant.”

“You did say your unit didn’t have Master Sergeants, only First Sergeants.”

“Our actual First Sergeant is actually a Sergeant First Class until he attends the school.”

“Whatever. How many cases should I expect?”

“Five more and hopefully we’ll start on the rockets.”

“Can you get Sharon and me those new M50 gas masks?”

“Better buy you own, we don’t have them yet.”

“You want me to buy for your family, too?”

“Can you afford it?”

“Can I afford not to?”

“Yeah, go ahead.”

“Suits, mask, boots, gloves, tape and boots?”

“Extra filters might be nice; they only have a limited useful life in a heavily contaminated atmosphere.”

The M50 is manufactured by Ajax Protection and is available to civilians in 2 models, the single filter C50 and the clone of the 2 filter military mask the FM50. How much does it cost? If you have to ask, you can’t afford it. Maximum filter life in combat environments is 36 hours. It comes in 3 sizes and weighs around 850 grams (14 oz.) with filters. The

new mask was developed because the material used to construct the M40/M42 was susceptible to chemicals and disintegrated as was the Air Force and Navy MCU-2/P.

“I’ll get 8 sets in case DJ shows up.”

I had to suspend the Mk211 and A-MAX purchases temporarily. Four large, 2 medium and 2 small masks were required. Ditto the suits, gloves and boots. In addition to the small and medium masks, we bought 4 more adult masks etc., filters by the case, test strips and at least 8 of everything. It was almost another envelope project.

We finished up our preps in late 2014, except for a shelter. Jerry recommended the double wall above ground shelter and we took out a loan to pay for construction of the shelter. The equipment all came from American Safe Rooms and we bought the high capacity Safe Cell, 2 extra sets of filters, 8 820-amp batteries, and the various valves, door and hatch. It was 32’ wide, 40’ long and 9’ high inside (11,520ft³). Three rows of columns supported I-beams that supported the overhead. The walls had 72” of space between them and no insulation. We built a 2x4 internal structure in keeping with the Farnsworth construction practice. We finished the walls with $\frac{5}{8}$ drywall sheets and had a friend of Derek’s blow on the acoustic ceiling. It was finished by January 15th. The water and sewer were connected directly to the well and septic. Why did we bury a septic tank under the shelter? Ever read *Planning Pays Off*?

It really wasn’t a lot of space, 11,520ft³. The Safe Cell produced 120ft³ of filtered air per minute (7,200ft³ per hour). Dividing 11,520 by 7,200 resulted in calculating a complete air exchange every 1.5 hours (check that, $11,520 \div 120 = 96$ minutes or 1 hours, 36 minutes). The outside walls and overhead had 25.8 to 26 halving thicknesses of material and equal a protection factor of ~50 million to 67,108,864. We had my 7kw portable generator and only needed a half dozen drums of gasoline treated with PRI-G. We ran out of cash before we could construct a parapet.

We wired the lights with very efficient 12vdc LED fixtures. They were 12V LED Down-lights 15X1W we bought from a dealer. Since they were made in China, we bought extra. We acquired an office cabinet and built a gun rack inside. It had a locking handle and I added a hasp and padlock. The furniture was well used except for the recliner and my twin bed. There were 3 bedrooms, a $\frac{3}{4}$ bath, and the used 4-in-one kitchen with our old refrigerator (only). The four in one had a sink, 2 burner propane stove, propane oven and microwave. We emptied the freezer, moved it to the shelter and put the frozen foods back in.

Although I’d had a Ham license for 20 years, there’d never been a radio. Now that I didn’t have a license, I got the radio. Actually, we got several. First were the expensive radios, a pair of Kenwood TS-2000s, one for the shelter and one for the Honda. We had to add a second alternator and 820amp deep cycle battery because the radio draws 23 amps when you transmit. The shelter antenna was that MFJ-1798 10 band vertical I’ve talked about in my stories, atop a mast. Well, it wasn’t really a mast, it was a broken util-

ity pole about 60' long that we got planted in the backyard. We could do it because the house was rent to own.

We used 16' long 4x6s mounted perpendicular for standoffs. The top of the pole was 45' above ground level. When it went up, it had a $\frac{5}{8}$ -wave CB antenna, a Diamond Discone and a business band antenna. The CBs came second, a Cobra 148 GTL in the Honda and Galaxy DX 2547s in the house and shelter. Handhelds were Cobra Mini Handheld CB Radio with Weather Stations, Model: HH-38WXST from Radio Shack Online.

The second most expensive radio purchase was the Motorola VHF Business Band radios. We bought 6 of the CM 300s, their house, our house, the shelter, the Honda and their two vehicles. We also bought 12 of the CP 200s. I wasn't sure enough that DJ would show up to buy him a CM 300. Derek and Mary were on the same rent to own scheme and they planted the 65' remains of a broken utility pole. I made sure they had the same 5 antennas on their pole as we had on ours. We used RG-8 cable everywhere.

Ten days out of nine, Derek and Mary didn't have 2 pennies to rub together. We bought their CBs second, after the Motorola VHF Business Band radios. One handheld per person plus an extra, just in case (DJ), 2 mobiles and 1 base station. There was no way I'd buy them 3 TS-2000s, one would be enough.

TOM – Chapter 4

Obama had 2 years to go on Tuesday, January 20, 2015. I can only assume he thought he'd better get the ball rolling. He had a 9pm EST speech scheduled from the White House. I can't recall him ever making a speech from the Oval Office. There's a first time for everything, as the expression goes.

My fellow Americans,

This past year saw a temporary suspension of the drought in the Midwest and we experienced nearly record crops. The National Weather Service is suggesting a resumption of the drought conditions for 2015. As a consequence this administration is declaring a National Emergency and pursuant to the existing Executive Orders will control this year's crops from seed to markets.

Specifically, the following Executive Orders will be enforced:

United States Code TITLE 50 - WAR AND NATIONAL DEFENSE

CHAPTER 34 - NATIONAL EMERGENCIES

Executive Orders

Executive Order 10995

Assigning Telecommunications Management Functions

Executive Order 10997

Assigning Emergency Preparedness Functions To The Secretary Of The Interior: electric power, petroleum and gas, solid fuels, and minerals

Executive Order 10998

Assigning Emergency Preparedness Functions To The Secretary Of Agriculture Food resources, farm equipment, fertilizer, and food resource facilities

Executive Order 10999

Assigning Emergency Preparedness Functions To The Secretary Of Commerce transportation, the production and distribution of all materials

Executive Order 11000

Assigning Emergency Preparedness Functions To The Secretary Of Labor Manpower management employment stabilization

Executive Order 11001

Assigning Emergency Preparedness Functions To The Secretary Of Health, Education, And Welfare

health services, civilian health manpower, health resources, welfare services, and educational programs

Executive Order 11002

Assigning Emergency Preparedness Functions To The Postmaster General national emergency registration system

Executive Order 11003

Assigning Emergency Preparedness Functions To The Administrator Of The Federal Aviation Agency emergency management of the Nation's airports, operating facilities

Executive Order 11004

Assigning Certain Emergency Preparedness Functions To The Housing And Home Finance Administrator all aspects of lodging or housing and community facilities

Executive Order 11005

Assigning Emergency Preparedness Functions To The Interstate Commerce Commission railroad utilization, motor carrier utilization, inland waterway utilization

Executive Order 11051

Prescribing Responsibilities Of The Office Of Emergency Planning In The Executive Office Of The President

Executive Order 11490

Assigning emergency preparedness functions to Federal departments and agencies

Executive Order 12472

Assignment of national security and emergency preparedness telecommunications functions

In order to provide for the consolidation of assignment and responsibility for improved execution of national security and emergency preparedness telecommunications functions, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Executive Order 12656

*Assignment of Emergency Preparedness Responsibilities
National Security Emergency Preparedness Policy: Continuity of Government*

Executive Order 12919

National Defense Industrial Resources Preparedness

(a) Identify requirements for national emergencies, including military, industrial, and essential civilian demand

(b) Assess continually the capability of the domestic industrial and technological base to satisfy requirements in peacetime and times of national emergency, specifically evaluating the availability of adequate industrial resource and production sources, including

subcontractors and suppliers, materials, skilled labor, and professional and technical personnel;

(c) Be prepared, in the event of a potential threat to the security of the United States, to take actions necessary to ensure the availability of adequate industrial resources and production capability, including services and critical technology for national defense requirements;

(d) Improve the efficiency and responsiveness, to defense requirements, of the domestic industrial base; and

(e) Foster cooperation between the defense and commercial sectors for research and development and for acquisition of materials, components, and equipment to enhance industrial base efficiency and responsiveness.

Executive Order 12938

Proliferation Of Weapons Of Mass Destruction

weapons of mass destruction constitutes an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, and hereby declare a national emergency to deal with that threat.

Executive Order 13074

Amends Executive Order 12656 adding a new section 501(16) regarding Noncombatant Evacuation Operations

To this end I am activating all state National Guard units pursuant to the following:

The Total Force Policy, 1973 Requires all active and reserve military organizations be treated as a single force.

*The Montgomery Amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1987 provides that a governor cannot withhold consent with regard to active duty outside the United States because of any objection to the location, purpose, type, or schedule of such duty. This law was challenged and upheld by the Supreme Court of the United States in 1990 in *Perpich v. Department of Defense*.*

The John Warner Defense Authorization Act of 2007 Pub.L. 109-364 Federal law was changed in section 1076 so that the Governor of a state is no longer the sole commander in chief of their state's National Guard during emergencies within the state. The President of the United States will now be able to take total control of a state's National Guard units without the governor's consent. In a letter to Congress, all 50 governors opposed the increase in power of the President over the National Guard.

And,

The National Defense Authorization Act 2008 Pub.L. 110-181 Repealed provisions in section 1076 in Pub.L. 109-364 but still enables the President to call up the National Guard of the United States for active federal military service during Congressionally sanctioned national emergency or war. Places the National Guard Bureau directly under

the Department of Defense as a joint activity. Promoted the Chief of the National Guard Bureau from a three-star to a four-star general.

All National Guard Units are to assemble by no later than 31Mar15.

Thank you and good night.

“Derek, Dad. Did you see the speech?”

“Yep.”

“Still planning on reenlisting?”

“Nope. The problem is that my enlistment runs to September, 2015.”

“And you won’t consider deserting?”

“Nope.”

“You probably wouldn’t have to do much before your enlistment was up.”

“I’d probably get hit with a stop-loss.”

“Come see me around my birthday.”

“Why?”

“You can’t report to duty with a broken arm.”

“I don’t have a broken arm!”

“YET!”

“I don’t know if I want to go through with that.”

“I’ll break your left arm. That way you can still shoot.”

“Still...”

“I’ll give you a scope and mounts for your rifle.”

“What kind?”

“The Zeiss. The Super Match has a Nightforce similar to the one on the Tac-50.”

“Swap me the Super Match for the Loaded and you have a deal.”

“Bring it over and don’t forget the ammo, but keep the T-57 magazines. I want that hard case, too.”

You know who was getting ripped here don’t you? He had a good teacher, his mother, Joyce. They flew to California on round trip tickets each year that I bought and arrived with suitcases containing one change of their worst clothing. She kept insisting I was behind on the child support when I was ahead. Sharon paid it and she was touchy about child support because Herbert never paid his.

Of course the suppressor went with the rifle and I had to get another. I paid about \$15 each for the T-57s and \$36 each for the 22 25-round CMI magazines (\$34 net because I bought 10 or more). I wasn’t about to let him have them, too. If I put the same scope and mounts on the Loaded, I’ll give you even money I can shoot as well with it as the Super Match. In his case, he could shoot as well as the rifle and in my case... the rifle was better than I was. I think my original rifle was what they called 1 in a 1,000. These eyes are both old and very tired.

I’d bought an FMCO vest that held 20 magazines and had to special order to get 25-round magazine pouches. The vest was their model CSV-M10 20 Mag Vest. It would have worked without the special order but the bottom of the magazines would be sticking out of the pouches. Right or wrong, I’d always inserted my rifle magazines top down. Since the vest held 20 magazines, I had one in the buttstock pouch and the other in the rifle.

“Mommy, when does the war begin?”

“It begins on April Fool’s Day, dear.”

“Is Daddy going to fight in the war?”

“Grandpa is going to break Daddy’s arm.”

“Will it hurt?”

“Not as much as getting shot. That’s enough now, finish your homework.”

I should point out 500 rounds of 168gr 7.62×51mm ammo, including the magazines and vest weigh ~45 pounds, 32% of my bodyweight. That’s not counting the 3 liter Camelbak, the handguns or spare magazines or various cutting instruments. It was Hover Round and Medicare to the rescue. At least Medicare covered 80% and our new healthcare insurance the balance. And, the chair came with a cup holder for my Folgers and a pouch I could carry spare magazines or grenades in. Derek and a friend fashioned a swing away gun rest attached to the left arm.

Technically, I wasn't entitled to mobility assistance... I walked 4 blocks per day. A little fib... I'm not a lawyer because I oppose situational ethics. It's a case of do as I say rather than do as I do. This very subject came up on one of our Skype group chats held Tue., Thur., and Sat. Jerry D. Young is the center of the group and there's Frank, Ken, myself and a couple of others. The time is 6pm Pacific time. We're not always on together due to health concerns and what not. It used to be that supper was being served just at 6pm and I was hungry. The Ensure helps. The first time I was aware of the product was the scene in *Deep Impact* in the White House kitchen with Morgan Freeman and Téa Leoni (Elizabeth Téa Pantaleoni Tardio Duchovny(?)).

Just hours after news broke that actress Gillian Anderson had parted ways with Mark Griffiths, her partner of six years, came rumors that she's dating her former "The X-Files" co-star David Duchovny.

Sources allegedly told Celebrity Dirty Laundry that Anderson and Duchovny have been in a serious relationship for some time, and the 44-year-old actress has even moved her two children in with the 52-year-old "Californication" star.

The pair have known each other for nearly two decades, working together on "The X-Files" for nine seasons and two feature films as FBI agents Fox Mulder and Dana Scully.

After all these years, we want to believe they're a couple, but the website's "evidence" that the pair is romantically involved is paper thin.

In addition to claims from their unnamed source, the website argues that Anderson's hesitation to discuss her personal life with The Sunday Times magazine is more proof that the pair is involved:

I ask if she has a partner at the moment. Her answer is peculiar.

"Um...yes...umm...umm..." There is a long pause. "Say yes," she stutters finally. "Is this one we know about, I say, the father of the two youngest children, or a new one?" "Umm, no, no... why do you ask me?" she counters.

Celebrity Dirty Laundry finds these to be "odd answers" and also wonders if Anderson keeps talking to the press about her bisexuality simply to throw the media off the trail when it comes to whom she's really dating.

With few facts and no photos, we're inclined to believe these dating rumors are as much of a hoax as most UFO sightings, although both parties are single – as Duchovny separated from wife Téa Leoni in 2011 and 'reportedly' finalized the divorce quietly earlier this year.

Sometimes a tangent occurs when you're checking something out and learn something unexpected.

Be that as it may, it's none of my concern and who gives a darn.

I'm telling you, I knew it all along; Obama was like Clinton only he wasn't going to give up easily. He didn't suspend the elections, yet. I was speculating that he'd do that on January 21, 2016 and throw the campaigns for a loop. He seems to think he's above the law, so far as the US Supreme Court is concerned. I sometimes wonder if he doesn't have a Narcissistic Personality Disorder and there is no known cure for Personality Disorders.

Maybe we could get Derek's family physician to break his arm since he could numb it first and would know how best to go about it. I'm sure I've talked about the oath doctors take. Is that the Hippocratic oath or the hypocritical oath? A fracture of the Ulna would probably be the best, but not compound. It would be easier to set and probably heal in time for his retirement. Have to be careful, here; remember what happened to Carlos Hathcock. He stayed in the Corps, but his health continued to decline, and was forced to retire just 55 days short of the 20 years that would have made him eligible for full retirement pay. Being medically retired, he received 100% disability. He would have received only 50% of his final pay grade had he retired after 20 years.

TOM – Chapter 5

We pretty much had our ducks lined up by my birthday, (3/23). This was good because at the moment, we were as broke as Derek and Mary. Almost. Sharon made it a point to keep enough cash on hand for emergencies, like filling prescriptions. I drove up to the Bootheel (20 minute drive) periodically and loaded up on generic menthols and or KOOLs. I usually grabbed Derek a couple of cartons and rationed them out a pack at a time when he came over to bum a smoke.

You realize that when we swapped rifles, he got the Boxer primed ammo and I ended up with the Berdan primed. That was part of the reason we were broke, the 168gr Hornady A-MAX isn't inexpensive, a box of 20 168gr A-MAX ran \$27 plus shipping. And Berdan primed gets iffy after being reloaded 3-4 times. We'd been paddling as fast as we could since 20Jan. Heck I'd even picked up using y'all.

On top of that, I'd finally remembered the missing sixth ingredient in the macaroni salad, shredded cheese. Equal amounts of diced green pepper, celery, and green onion including the tops. Add to that one small can of sliced black olives, one small jar of pimentos and one 16oz package of shredded cheese. Mix in 2 pounds of cooked macaroni, a quart of mayonnaise and you have a large pan of macaroni salad. Let the consumer salt and pepper to taste. It's enough for 16 to 20 people so you should feel free to cut the recipe in ½ except for the olives and pimentos. I included that so the next time we make it, I have the recipe written down. Turns out this is the fifth story I've included it in.

Don't get old; you have to look at your legs to know if you're wearing pants. And your eyes go bad and your teeth break and they don't hurt enough to go to the dentist. Orajel to the rescue and if it really gets bad, take a Norco. I once had a life insurance policy with Northwestern Mutual, life paid up at 65. We couldn't afford the \$160 per year premiums and needed money for college. Plus I didn't believe I'd live to 65 and wasn't the beneficiary. Think about it.

Darrest thing happened on my birthday, Derek fell and broke his left arm. He was excused from being activated due to his arm being in a cast. I jokingly asked how he'd managed to do that and he replied, "It wasn't easy." Couldn't hurt too much, I loaned him 4 Norco. As sometimes happens they had to perform surgery to set his arm. So not only did he have a plaster cast on, it itched both due to the healing incision and cast lining.

As Jerry pointed out in *Laid Back Louie*, just because you get the cast off doesn't mean you're healed. The muscles atrophy in a cast and it takes time to rebuild the muscles in that limb. It stinks too.

To overcome the weak arm, Derek added a Harris bipod to the Super Match. It required an HB2R adapter and he chose the 6-9" bipod to clear the 25 round magazines. He'd also fired the Tac-50 and embarrassed me with his accuracy. He was shooting <math>< \frac{1}{2}</math> MOA

on targets at 1,500 meters on his first try. Of course, it was daylight so he removed the AN/PVS-27 and cranked the Nightforce up to 42X.

We ended up with 2,400 rounds of the 750gr A-MAX and 20 cans of the Mk211MP, less expended. We didn't have to pay for the last 10 cans or we'd have only had 10. There were 8 crates of rockets and we removed the cases from crates to allow us to stack them easier. We also had 6 cases of M67s although I'd have preferred the M61s. The last thing he was able to get me was two of the red personnel signal kits, M185, containing 7 red Pen Gun flares. He also got 2 red personnel distress signal kits, A/P255-5A containing 7 red flares and a Pen Gun. The latter was included in recent pilot (and naval aviator) survival jackets.

One of the problems of aging is your heroes all die. *Mama don't let your babies grow up to be cowboys* was a country western hit, as was *Pancho and Lefty*. I'm sure they must call them something else now, *livestock directors*? We hadn't hit the bank up for extra money in a very long time, so around March 1st we went for the throat. She asked for enough cash to scratch an itch, the single action Ruger revolvers and Winchester rifles. I think they were so shocked they forgot to say no.

In short order, we each had the 4 revolvers and 3 Winchester rifles. They finally brought back the 9422. We got .45s, not .44-40s. Plus boxes of primers, cast bullets and Pyrodex, both rifle and pistol. I'm telling you though, those are strictly last ditch... there's no way I'm getting on another horse. A buggy, maybe... The advantages to a horse drawn buggy are almost too numerous to list. Low on gas, stop and graze; there's plenty of room to conceal the firearms too.

Strange thing happened on April 1st, an Executive Order banned firearms and ordered them confiscated. That should wipe out the ATF and Army. On April 2nd, gold was recalled... again. It was his version of barefoot in the winter and pregnant in the summer. Derek wouldn't get his cast off for a couple months and after, he'd need rehab. No eventual promotion to E-9, but what the heck?

I figured if something really bad happened, the UN would send in Peacekeepers. That would cause an open revolt which would probably cause a Military Junta to take over the country. Now if that happened, Beijing and Moscow would release their nuclear arsenals and we really would need the shelter. And then, it occurred to me that we were mighty close to the Mississippi River and south of Cape Girardeau and this was about as close as we could come to have an Ozark Retreat. Remember...

Jerry didn't butcher anything; it was entirely possible; probable...?

It was generations before scientists pieced together what had happened that day and several subsequent days. A tectonic movement of epic proportions had snapped the North American Tectonic Plate in two from deep in the Gulf of Mexico up the Mississippi River Valley and over to the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence Seaway.

For eons the bedrock deep under the center of the United States had been stretched thinner and thinner, resulting in the Reelfoot Rift. The surface would have sunk with the bedrock, except billions of tons of eroded rock coming from the Rockies and the Appalachians, and even the Ozarks, had filled the sunken land in, just slightly slower than the ground was sinking.

When the plate separated magma began to stream upward in hundreds of places. But it was still deep in the earth and much of it cooled and hardened quickly, sealing the crack except for here and there. A new line of volcanoes arose along the length of the split.

The waters of the Gulf of Mexico flowed northward over the sunken ground, stopping only when it reached Cape Girardeau, Missouri in the north, the Ozarks in the west, and the foothills of the Appalachians to the east. The Gulf of Mexico was now the American Sea.

Sounds like NOLA (New Orleans, LA). It's been sinking since forever. Back on subject, when the order went out to pick up the guns, the first thing I said was, *From YOUR cold dead hands*. Derek took advantage of the summer and finished his Master's in History and was accepted into a PhD program. By the time he got the PhD, he'd be old enough to remember some of the history first hand. Maybe he could write a book titled *The Second American Revolutionary War, from the perspective of a career soldier*.

When instructions went out where to turn the guns and gold in, nobody had their radio on. When they were carried on TV, everyone shut their set off. Ditto newspapers, they didn't read past the headline. Preppers knew not to have any written record of their precious metals holdings. Preppers knew all about strawman purchases and phony bills of sale. Preppers read PAW fiction and just about every possibility had been written about by one author or another.

They were prepared, so I suppose that was why they called themselves Preppers. I do too, although I'm a survivalist at heart. I'm a Jeffersonian and have 56 pages of Thomas Jefferson quotes. My second largest collection of quotes is from George Smith Patton. Patton may have been a prima donna, but he didn't hold a candle to George C. Scott. Scott portrayed George S. Patton in the 1970 film *Patton* and researched extensively for the role, studying films of the general and talking to those who knew him. Scott refused the Oscar nomination for Patton, just as he had done for his 1962 nomination for *The Hustler*.

In a letter to the Motion Picture Academy he stated that he didn't feel himself to be in competition with other actors. However, regarding this second rejection of the Academy Award, Scott famously said elsewhere, "The whole thing is a goddamn meat parade. I don't want any part of it." Sixteen years later, in 1986, Scott reprised his role in a made-for-television sequel, *The Last Days of Patton*. The movie was based on Patton's final weeks after being mortally injured in a car accident, with flashbacks of Patton's life. At the time the sequel was aired, Scott mentioned in a TV Guide interview that he told the

Academy to donate his Oscar to the Patton Museum but since the instructions were never put in writing, it was never delivered.

The Oscar is currently displayed at the Virginia Military Institute museum in Lexington, Virginia, the same institution that generations of Patton's have attended. Scott did not turn down the New York Film Critics Award for his performance (of which his then wife Colleen Dewhurst said, "George thinks this is the only film award worth having").

We didn't have any gold coins and pre-65 silver looks just like post-64 silver; especially when it's intermingled loosely in canvas bags. I do have a roll of pre-65 silver dimes. All of those things being said, there was the issue of the firearms, all recorded on 4473s, more than a little ammo and those nasty destructive devices the ATF hates. I said I knew about strawman purchases, not that I'd ever made one. I had a few made on my behalf, one directly, one in between and one indirectly. The direct purchase was the PT1911B, the indirect purchase was 5 30-round M-16 magazines and the last was the purchase of the T-57s which I purchased directly and had forwarded.

We could have purchased an M82A3 except for 2 reasons, price and accuracy. The USMC seems to have better tastes in firearms than the Army. And, while the decision hasn't been announced, I feel it in my bones that we'll end up with HK416 and 417s. All we need is that sale of HK416 to the Corps. Derek's friend claimed he could get several of each rerouted and lost in transit.

Full-auto is uncalled for 95% of the time. The other 5% pertain to ambushes whether you're the ambusher or the ambushee and in situations requiring extensive fire. And finally since I've met the man I expect them to be equipped with the AG-C/EGLM launchers. The seller had picked them up somewhere and wanted \$1,000 each, COB, for either a 416 or 417. No suppressors, but they had the longest barrels and 10 magazines per weapon. We'd repaid the bank and ask for a second short term loan for another urgent project.

I guess they read the Charles City Press and we got the money added to our existing loan. We added another 80 magazines, Red Dot sights and lots of XM855A1 and more M118LR. Every time we got that car loan close to being retired, we ended up asking to increase the loan against the Honda. It had better last for another 10 years or we have another problem. These were the first off-the-books firearms acquired. And those canisters of 40mm grenades were even further off-the-books.

January 21, 2016 elections were suspended due to the ongoing National Emergency. The UN had approved a Peacekeeping force based principally on Russian and Chinese troops with some other Nations joining the *Collation of the Willing*. I think we'd heard that before. The first contingents of foreign Special Forces had boots on the ground by Labor Day. They did not arrive unexpected; the White House had announced their arrival and urged US citizens to cooperate. Some of the flights and 2 supply ships were intercepted and didn't make it all the way over.

There wasn't a box of ammunition to be had, regardless of price. Sales of percussion firearms had soared with the announcement. We'd loaded up on no. 10 and no. 11 percussion caps and Pyrodex RS Select and Pyrodex P. But we overlooked the percussion firearms.

"Sharon, I'm not really certain how this will all play out. The firearms, ammo and destructive devices are put away for the moment. Only Derek, Damon and I know where they're stored. We're as well stocked on ammo as possible and Derek's friend can reload for us as required. In the event the ATF shows up, let them search, they won't find anything. I only managed to pick up a case each of 40 grain solids and 36 grain hollow point .22 long rifles. They came 10 five hundred round bricks per case."

"Do you plan on hunting?"

"Not if I can avoid it."

"What didn't you get?"

"A suppressed Ruger Mk III and 10/22."

"Can you get them?"

"That class 3 dealer has a gambling problem so it might be possible. We'll check when my Social Security check comes in. Where do we stand on the LTS foods?"

"Twelve years for one person. The STS supplies are two years for one. I've loaded up on Charmin and Folgers Classic and have 300 pounds of bread flour in the freezer in the shelter. I tried out the Country Living Mill with a no. 10 can of red winter wheat and it works as advertised. The oats roller does a good job."

"Did you get the bulk Tattler lids and rubber rings?"

"I ordered the 1,500 count of bulk regular rings and lids plus 300 additional rings and their opener. But, we need jars. I don't know whether to go with Canning Pantry or use the local stores first."

"Order a gross of cases of quarts and half a gross of pints from Canning Pantry. That's almost 2,600 jars so be sure to ask for a discount. You'd better double the Tattler order while you're at it, assuming we can afford everything. One of those cases from Walton has heirloom seeds, I'm sure of it."

"Anything else?"

"A rototiller?"

“You can’t handle it, Gary. Back in ’79 when you put in that garden it liked to killed you getting it tilled.”

“True, but I didn’t have Derek to help. I think we’ll forego the sweet corn and increase the potatoes and squash. Sure hope you can come up with Gayle’s bread and butter pickles recipe. I packed the GE food processor. If we can get a good dill pickle recipe we can make thin sliced dills, too. I don’t know why it’s so hard to get those thin sliced hamburger dills the restaurants use.”

“We’re probably just shopping in the wrong place.”

The restaurants have to get them somewhere locally in case they run out. They couldn’t hide forever, she found Webstaurantstore and they sold Del Sol Kosher dill pickle chips, 4 1 gallon jars per case for ~\$17. We should never run out, that’s an 8 year supply and kept refrigerated, the open jar kept for years because, after all, they were pickles. Maybe Damon can get some Maid-Rite meat, it’s a special recipe.

“BATFE, keep your hands in plain view. Are you Gary D. Ott?”

“That’s me.”

“According to the 4473s, you have quite the weapons collection.”

“Had. Yes, it was impressive if I do say so myself.”

“Took them fishing and the boat overturned?”

“Do I look that idiotic? Nope, sold them for more than I had in them. I assume you have a search warrant so help yourselves. I’ll unlock the backyard bomb shelter.”

“You’re one of them.”

“One of what?”

“A survivalist.”

“You bet your bootie I am. I’m also a card carrying member of the NRA since 1964. And I recently upgraded to Benefactor.”

“So you’re out to overthrow the government?”

“Don’t have to; Obama already took care of that. Haven’t really decided if it will be a 2nd Revolution or 2nd Civil War. Shame I can’t help out. Don’t get around so good anymore, have to use this wheelchair. Follow me and I’ll unlock the shelter.”

“We didn’t find any firearms or ammunition. Where are they?”

“Sold them, like I told you. Some guy named Cash.”

“Did you report the sales?”

“It wasn’t anybody’s business but his and mine. Hell no.”

“We’ll be watching you.”

“Yeah sure, I stay awake night’s worrying about it. Are you done?”

“We’ll be back.”

“Un-huh, sure you will.”

“Ok, where’d you hide them?”

“Sorry, that would be telling. What you don’t know can’t hurt us.”

“Are they handy?”

“Very much so. Oh well, what the hell, they’re beneath the basement stairs.”

“It’s open beneath the basement stairs.”

“Are you sure? Maybe you’d better check.”

“When did you enclose them?”

“We started on January 21st. Everything Derek, Mary, you and I have is stored there.”

“You stored explosives in MY house?”

“We put those in the septic tank under the shelter, temporarily.”

“How is Derek’s arm doing?”

TOM – Chapter 6

“X-Ray said 4 more weeks. Doctor told him rehab would equal the time he had the cast on, minimum. He’s retiring with 20.”

“Praise the Lord.”

“I can’t believe it, a Lutheran saying *Praise the Lord* and you’re not even Missouri Synod. Anyway, he’s not healing as fast as he should. His enlistment will be up before he’s completed rehab so he’s says they won’t stop-loss him.”

There are three kinds of people who constitute the majority of the population. They are the liberals who believe the government can do no wrong, the conservatives who believe the government rarely does anything right and the majority who simply doesn’t give a damn unless it affects them directly. Martin Sheen and Susan Sarandon are my favorite examples of liberals who take it too far. I can’t think of any conservatives who take it far enough. For pretend sake, I don’t give a damn unless it affects me directly.

Sheen (Ramón Antonio Gerardo Estévez) has also become notable for his activism in liberal politics. Sarandon (Susan Abigail Tomalin) is also noted for her social and political activism for a variety of liberal causes. Oh, I forgot Sean Penn (Sean Justin Penn) who has been active in supporting several political and social causes. He attended Santa Monica High School and began making short films with some of his childhood friends, including actors Emilio Estévez and Charlie Sheen (Carlos Irwin Estévez), who lived near his home, the sons of guess who.

I’ll say this; Sheen did a good job in *The Execution of Private Slovak* although the Film contained a technical error, they used blanks.

If you believe otherwise of me, remember that I’m mostly known through my fiction and I may or may not be as my fiction depicts. Well, except for the NRA thing and the guns I’ve owned. That AR-7 I owned was a piece of junk because of the magazines. The 9422s would take my breath away. The actions were smoother than a baby’s butt.

We added pipes to the back of the wheelchair seat and hung the shotgun on the left side and the Loaded on the right side. Both were fully loaded with the safeties on. The 590A1 had 9 inside, 15 in the sling, 6 on the left side and 6 in the buttstock elastic carrier. They had 36 chances to change their mind. Of course the 51 rounds of 168gr 7.62 gave them more chances before I had to resort to the pistols. It would never go that long; I’d end up looking like Swiss cheese if I didn’t get ‘them’ with the 1st or 2nd shot. I got the silenced .22s, just in case.

You may ask if I had anything real handy like. Yep, got a genuine PT1911B-1 with the Picatinny rails loaded with 200gr Gold Dot +P. Bought a Surefire light. Got that one off the books, personal sale and I lied and didn’t register the transaction. Forewarned is forearmed.

“Hey.”

“Hey what?”

“I had to submit to a medical exam by a military physician.”

“Regarding your arm?”

“Yep.”

“And...”

“He thinks it will take longer to heal and an even longer rehab. Since it’s not service connected, he’s recommending I be allowed to retire on my scheduled retirement date.”

“How sure are you?”

“He had the paperwork half completed by the time I was let in to see him with the results.”

“In the words of Faye Dunaway, *did you avert your eyes at the appropriate time?*”

“Who?”

“The Minister’s wife in *Little Big Man*.”

“That was a movie I take it.”

“Yep. Sort of a western comedy. She had Jack in a bathtub and giving him a bath. One source described her as sexually frustrated. Personally, I think she was a nympho. She was the same way in *Bonnie and Clyde*.”

“Do you describe everything in terms of movies or songs?”

“I figure most people will remember the movie or the song. The only times I got caught short was on a Doors song, *Light My Fire* and David Bowie’s *Space Oddity*. I remember the songs but not the associated artists. That pretty much ended when I gave up my driver’s license back in ‘03.”

“Do you have a plan about the Civil War or Revolution? And, please decide which one it going to be.”

“I’m leaning toward a Revolution, Jefferson would. Who was the best general in your mind?”

“Patton.”

“Jefferson was the best politician in my mind. I have a list of quotations attributed to both men. Patton was a man of few words and Jefferson didn’t know when to stop talking.”

“We’ve had this discussion before.”

“I was just reminding you. Since you had trouble dropping the trigger on the ragheads, how do you feel if the OpFor is Americans?”

“Maybe we won’t have to find out.”

“I hope you’re right; the saying is, *Prepare for the worst and hope for the best.*”

“There’s not much we can do if they bring mortars or artillery.”

“I bought some MultiCam for you and your family. I hope Mary gave me the right sizes. I also added a Kifaru EMR and Marauder for you and a Navigator for each of us. Ordered those back on January 21st, too. I got the gunbearer option for your pack and that auxiliary holster for the Tac-50; so happy birthday and Merry Christmas or whatever. Oh, everything is in MultiCam.”

“MREs?”

“Sorta; Nitro-Pak has a version called the Hungry Man MRE. Plus, there are plenty of the Mountain House entrees, sides and desserts too.”

“What didn’t you get?”

“Enough Mason jars, but they’re on order including 2 30-quart All American canners and a can sealer with several sets of heads. Sharon says that if Mary can get loose to help, we should produce a two year supply of home canned goods. I think we may can some beef and pork. Last count we had a 1 year supply of LTS foods for 12 and a 1 year supply of STS for 2.

“If you can add to that, get Hormel Cure 81 hams, Hormel thick sliced bacon, Jimmy Dean ground sausage and butter. We have enough tuna, canned beef, canned chicken, canned ham and spam to last well past when people will get sick of eating it. I don’t know what your mother cooked after the divorce, but were not short on beans, rice, corn meal, elbow macaroni, dried onion flakes or ground beef. So, you should be used to the diet.”

“Coffee?”

“One hundred eighty 48 oz. cans of Folgers Classic give or take a few, 36 16 oz. cans of French Market, 2 6-gallon pails of Swiss Miss envelopes and two pails of assorted Bigelow teas.”

“Forget anything?”

“Doesn’t everyone?”

“Bread flour and yeast?”

“In the freezer. But we can always grind whole wheat flour with the Country Living Mill. We even have a flaker for rolled oats and a coffee grinder if we run out of Folgers and have to salvage.”

“How long have you been planning this?”

“Since the mid ‘50s but I never got really serious until 2004.”

“I’d be glad to switch back if you want.”

“I can’t shoot to the capabilities of the Loaded so you keep the Super Match. Say, why is Damon in a huff?”

“He jealous of the arms collections we both have.”

“Is that all? Tell him to get his butt down here and we’ll fix the problem. I know where I can get an off-the-books M1A standard and I’ll buy more 25-round magazines for the Super Match and you can give him the T-57s. The gunstore has a Remington 870 Express Combo and we’ll add a Taurus. If he wants a Mare’s Leg, he’ll have to go it alone. We can pawn off the remaining South African or get it reloaded in the 168gr BTHP.”

“Glocks are less expensive.”

“Ok, get a Glock 21, then. Keep your eyes peeled for a decent used Mini-14 or folding stock AC-556. Keep it strictly a cash purchase. I have the best luck with the PMI 20 and 30-round magazines. Try to get 17 with a buttstock pouch and a set of ALICE gear. Do you think we can get more 5.56 or .45acp?”

“No problem of the 5.56. The .45acp is non-standard issue so look for some Speer. You want the same shotgun shells?”

“Only if they’re available; if not, get what you can find. Twelve-pellet 00 and 27 pellet #4 will do in a pinch and we can get by with Remington Sluggers.”

“How pray tell are you going to fight from a wheelchair?”

"It's only a mobility problem so I'll get to cover and fight from there, assuming it comes to that. Besides there's the rifle rest. I think the SCOTUS will clamp the lid on and they have the entire Marshals Service to back them up. That is if they get involved. I have serious doubts that the veterans will allow it to come to that.

"Think about it, you've been deployed 4 times of which 3 were combat zones. You put it on the line more times than I care to remember. Did Obama serve a single day in the Armed Forces? It was voluntary and the answer is no. Neither did a majority of Americans. In fact, a significant percentage of the voluntary service members used the military service to achieve US citizenship.

"Get your degree and find a good teaching position. When you can, slip in the principles I live by:

"Bad things happen in threes; improvise, adapt, overcome; be careful what you wish for, God has a sense of humor; to everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven; the very essence of the creative is its novelty, and hence we have no standard by which to judge it; nothing happens by itself... it all will come your way, once you understand that you have to make it come your way, by your own exertions; an invasion of armies can be resisted, but not an idea whose time has come; rather fail with honor than succeed by fraud; respect for the truth comes close to being the basis for all morality; those who stand for nothing fall for anything; those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it; if you want something too much, you will not succeed in getting it; the ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy; friendship is the hardest thing in the world to explain. It's not something you learn in school. But if you haven't learned the meaning of friendship, you really haven't learned anything; it requires wisdom to understand wisdom: the music is nothing if the audience is deaf; never attribute to malice that which can be adequately explained by stupidity; a person who can't pay, gets another person who can't pay, to guarantee that he can pay; and, imagine the Creator as a stand-up comedian - and at once the world becomes explicable."

"Interesting. Where did you come up with those?"

"From the website I had up over 15 years back."

"That Tony thing?"

"Did I tell you about that?"

"A little."

"That's all you need to know."

"Derek, there's a National Guard detachment in Jonesboro."

“What are they doing?”

“Standing around smoking cigarettes.”

“You have a set of MultiCams?”

“Yep.

“Rank insignia?”

“A full set; 2nd Lieutenant up to Bird Colonel”

“ID card?”

“It will pass a visual inspection but the bar codes are meaningless and the magnetic strip is blank.”

“We’ll fix that later. It should do for now. Got a set of gold Oak leaves?”

“I don’t know what Majors do.”

“Neither do most Majors. Take the HK416 and Glock 21.”

“They’re non-standard issue.”

TOM – Chapter 7

“Then, take your Loaded minus the scope and suppressor and your PT1911B-1.”

“Right. Got a Ranger or Airborne tab?”

“I’ll check, but I think so.”

It didn’t take long to dress up as soldiers. That was the easy part. Carrying it off would call for an Oscar winning performance.

Twenty minutes later, we were at a roadblock on the east side of Jonesboro. The Corporal asked to see our orders. Since we didn’t have any, Derek replied we were conducting an unannounced inspection. That got us to see the rather indignant Captain.

“What’s this all about Major?”

“May I see a copy of your orders?”

“Right here.”

“I see. How far along are you in implementing these?”

“About 80%.”

“Good job. Have you had any trouble?”

“An insignificant amount and the incidents have been handled.”

“Keep up the good work Captain. We’ll check again in a few days to confirm completion.”

House to house searches looking for firearms, ammunition and precious metals were underway. We checked around and so far they’d found a few coin collections. The gun store had been empty when they arrived. It was disappointing because with select fire H&K rifles, we’d need a lot more ammo, just in case.

As to my impersonating a Major, there was a limitation. I could only get away with it wearing MultiCams. Dress uniforms required a peaked cap in most instances and different rank groups had different oak leaves on the cap bill. It’s oak leaves, not scrambled eggs; scrambled eggs are slang. Plus, I was too darned old to be a lower rank because I didn’t look like John Wayne (She Wore a Yellow Ribbon).

“That almost made me feel like Julia Roberts back there.”

“Huh?”

“Sleeping with the Enemy.”

We got extra ammo, eventually, and it was M855 5.56x45mm 62gr ball cartridges and M80 147gr 7.62x51mm NATO ball cartridges. We had to go outside of Fayetteville. While we were there, we fixed up my ID card at Fort Chaffee. Travel restrictions hadn't been announced, yet. We put the ammo in the pickup bed, covered it with a tarp and topped the tarp with shelled field corn. We got stopped on the way back, but when the private looked in back, he said, “Move along.” Was Derek a Jedi Master? Nah...

When I think about it, which isn't often, I realize that I don't give Jerry enough credit. Over time, I'd incorporated many of his ideas in my stories and even our lifestyle. A perfect example was the septic tank under the above ground shelter. The pipes were all run to where one would think they should have been. None were connected to anything and were, in fact, capped. The advantage was the hidden storage provided for those things that we didn't want stored where they could be a hazard. With the additional ammo, we pretty much filled the septic tank because there was no room under the basement stairs.

I'd been gung-ho on Utah Shelter Systems despite their high prices and delays. He'd brought American Safe Rooms to my attention in one of his stories and after I checked them out I started referring to them. I'm still convinced that that blast door USS sells is a lot better than the one ASR sells. It should be, compare the prices. And, despite Sharon Packer being a nuclear expert, I didn't totally agree with the protection factors she claimed for various materials. She said 4.8" for earth while the common standard was 3.6". But, depending on whom you believed, a having thickness of packed earth ranged from 3.6" to 5.5".

72" of packed soil supported by 12 inches of concrete supported by 1" used road plates supported by I-beams supported by columns gave a protection factor of 67,108,864 using my tables. Plus the structure is bulletproof against all small arms.

The tables I preferred to use:

Material	Halving Thickness, inches	Halving Thickness, cm	Density, g/cm ³	Halving Mass, g/cm ²
lead	0.4	1.0	11.3	12
steel	0.99	2.5	7.86	20
concrete	2.4	6.1	3.33	20
packed soil	3.6	9.1	1.99	18
water	7.2	18	1.00	18
lumber or other wood	11	29	0.56	16
air	6000	15000	0.0012	18

Number of halvings	Total protection factor
1	2
2	4
3	8
4	16
5	32
6	64
7	128
8	256
9	512
10	1,024
11	2,048
12	4,096
13	8,192
14	16,384
15	32,768
16	65,536
17	131,072
18	262,144
19	524,288
20	1,048,576
21	2,097,152
22	4,194,304
23	8,388,608
24	16,777,216
25	33,554,432
26	67,108,864
27	134,217,728
28	268,435,456
29	536,870,912
30	1,073,741,824

What the second table demonstrates is that 3.6" of compacted soil can make a real difference. 10' equals 120" equals 33⅓ halving thickness. It's not quite enough against a direct hit, obviously, but you won't get any radiation in that shelter you built. The number in the second column is 2 raised to the power of the number in the first column. And, since 10' of compacted soil is quite heavy you have a shelter roof like I described on the previous page. The sidewalls had 14" of filled concrete block and 72" of soil for a protection factor of ~50 million. Oops, I already mentioned that.

Our government isn't going to nuke us since they wouldn't have any subjects to rule. Our government's behavior, on the other hand, just might get us nuked. I remember reading back on 28Aug12 that the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS John C. Stennis departed Bremerton for an eight-month deployment to the Persian Gulf. They ended up in the South China Sea.

For the sailors aboard the Stennis, the deployment comes four months ahead of schedule.

The John C. Stennis Strike Group has been home since March, when they returned from a seven-month deployment to the Persian Gulf and Arabian Sea.

This deployment is also twice as long as originally planned.

Sailors must be on board the USS Stennis by 10:00 am. The aircraft carrier leaves US Naval Base Kitsap at 1:30 p.m.

Last week, US Defense Secretary Leon Panetta told sailors he and the country need them.

"I understand that it's tough, we're asking an awful lot of each of you. But frankly, you are the best I have and when the world calls we have to respond," Panetta said.

The deployment comes at a time when tensions between Iran and Israel are high. Military experts have said deploying the Stennis to the Persian Gulf may deter actions from either side.

The John C. Stennis Strike Group is comprised of the USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74), Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 9, Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 21 and USS Mobile Bay (CG53). CVW-9 consists of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 8, Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM) 71, and Fleet Logistics Combat Support Squadron (VRC) 30 from Naval Air Station (NAS) North Island, California; Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 14, VFA-41, VFA-97, and VFA-192, from NAS Lemoore, California; and Electronic Attack Squadron (VAQ) 133 from NAS Whidbey Island, Washington.

I remember checking out the aircraft involved. One chopper group was ASW and the other multi mission. There were 2 Squadrons of F/A-18C, 1 of F/A-18E and one of F/A-18F. The embarked Air Wing consists of eight to nine squadrons. Attached aircraft are

Navy and Marine F/A-18 Hornet, EA-6B Prowler, MH-60R, MH-60S, and E-2C Hawkeye. VRC-30 flies the C-2 Greyhound.

The Air Wing can engage enemy aircraft, submarines, and land targets, or lay mines hundreds of miles from the ship. Stennis's aircraft are used to conduct strikes, support land battles, protect the Battle Group or other friendly shipping, and implement a sea or air blockade. The Air Wing provides a visible presence to demonstrate American power and resolve in a crisis. The ship normally operates as the centerpiece of a Carrier Battle Group commanded by a flag officer embarked upon Stennis and consisting of four to six other ships.

Stennis's two nuclear reactors give her virtually unlimited range and endurance and a top speed in excess of 30 knots (56 km/h, 34.5 mph). The ship's four catapults and four arresting gear engines enable her to launch and recover aircraft rapidly and simultaneously. The ship carries approximately 3 million US gallons (11,000 m³) of fuel for her aircraft and escorts, and enough weapons and stores for extended operations without replenishment. Stennis also has extensive repair capabilities, including a fully equipped Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Department, a micro-miniature electronics repair shop, and numerous ship repair shops.

For defense, in addition to her Air Wing and accompanying vessels, Stennis has NATO RIM-7 Sea Sparrow and Rolling Air Missile (RAM) surface-to-air missile systems, the Phalanx Close-in Weapons System for cruise missile defense, and the AN/SLQ-32 Electronic Warfare System.

Derek didn't get the cast off until mid-August. If the doctor had been correct, it would be January for him to regain full use of his arm. He retired right on schedule because a stop-loss would have had him doing the rehab on the Army's dime. Back in 2012 when he'd been trying to decide whether to reenlist for the last 3 years, he'd been offered a chance to attend OCS. He doesn't like officers, never has and never will and you can take that to the bank. That might explain why he had so much trouble making rank.

He was now in his PhD (piled higher and deeper) program and indications were that he'd be offered an Assistant Professor Position right there in Jonesboro when he graduated. Mary had already graduated with her BA (or BS) and was a High School coach. It was about the first time they actually had any money since they'd gotten married.

We latched onto a used police shield rated IIIA and had rigged it off the right arm of my wheel chair. I'd have preferred level IV, but those shields were so heavy they came on wheels. And while the chair could easily push the shield, that only applied to smooth surfaces. As it was, the shield was fairly long and had a window I could see through. On the other hand, all I could use was a pistol with it in place and with my arms not being as long as needed, I couldn't aim the pistol. The reason we didn't build a rifle rack as I had in some of my stories was that I couldn't reach the rifle or shotgun, thus the pipes to

slip the slings over. At least this time I bought an aftermarket sling and not the Mossberg sling.

Around the country, things were heating up. People began to resist the firearms confiscation and precious metals recall. Some of us had the impression that the FBI and or ATF had been hacking bulletin boards frequented by preppers. The reason for the assumption was that preppers were most likely to be in possession of both firearms and precious metals. It wasn't long before the 'hacked' websites were no longer available and generated *404 Not Found* messages.

Fortunately, I only spent time on Jerry's website and occasionally Frank's website. Frank has tightened up the site with new rules to avoid things like the Marine that was arrested and sent to a mental hospital for his Facebook and forum posts. It was by invitation only and without the invite recorded in the website files you not only couldn't register, the website couldn't be hacked.

As we watched the difficulties spread and increase, it brought to mind Ravel's *Bolero*. If you're not familiar with it, YouTube used to have it. I downloaded it using Real Player. It's a relatively simple instrumental which begins slowly and very softly. With each iteration of the instrumental, the tempo increases along with the volume. Back in the summer of '65, I played it at night to lull me to sleep in case the alcohol wasn't enough.

That's what '15 mostly consisted of. On January 20, 2016, the long awaited announcement came. Federal, state, county and municipal elections were suspended due to the National Emergency and increasing violence. This was absolutely one of those *it's not if, only when* situations.

This announcement had been a foregone conclusion since the previous year. I still don't know why it wasn't announced at the same time; unless it allowed the presumed Democratic candidate time to build a war chest. And since I brought up election war chests, do you have any idea how much Obama and Romney raised for the 2012 election? I don't either and am not sure where to look since Wiki now generates a *404 Not Found* error message. Wiki pretty much coincided with my introduction to writing because it was started in 2001 and I started writing in 2004. (\$1.6 billion combined)

Much of our language consists of archetypes, idioms, bromides, clichés, kitsches, memes, platitudes, snowclones, stereotypes, stock characters, figures of speech, tropes and thought-terminating clichés. Grab a dictionary, Wiki is *404 Not Found*.

TOM – Chapter 8

From Military dot com we get this:

Problems that have imperiled pilots of the famed F-22 Raptor fighter jet are being fixed, a senior Air Force leader said this month.

Not everyone, however, is reassured.

Count Joanna Tinsley among the nonbelievers. In July 2008, her husband, veteran F-22 pilot Brigadier General Thomas “Pugs” Tinsley, committed suicide.

Tinsley, who was 45, commanded Elmendorf Air Force Base in Anchorage, Alaska, and was still flying F-22s when he shot himself in the chest one afternoon in an uncharacteristic outburst of rage.

In a lengthy interview with the Star-Telegram, Joanna Tinsley said her husband experienced big changes during the last few months of his life. He was normally a happy, highly energetic and caring man, but he deteriorated physically and emotionally.

“He was short-tempered. He was impatient. He would get mad at things that never would have agitated him before,” said Tinsley, who now lives in Phoenix.

“He was more foggy-headed. He would ask questions over and over again and then stare at you with a blank look.”

Tinsley suffered headaches, his appetite diminished, and he had trouble sleeping. He was plagued by a chronic cough, a common problem for F-22 pilots.

Now, after reading reports of strange occurrences involving other F-22 pilots and comparing notes with other wives, Tinsley said she can't help but believe that the Air Force's prized fighter is a health risk. Something about the F-22, she theorizes, may have triggered her husband's suicide.

“They're seeing the same things, the same changes that I saw in Tom,” Tinsley said.

Tinsley, another wife and two former engineers who worked on the plane's development are among those who believe that something still isn't right with the F-22, which was partially built at Lockheed Martin's Fort Worth plant.

Reassuring statements aside, they said, the fighter's problems haven't been fixed and are worse than the Air Force lets on.

Numerous reports over the past four-plus years described F-22 pilots as becoming disoriented, even blacking out in flight. A lingering cough and respiratory problems were

commonly reported, as well as neurological and emotional problems. Two pilots were killed in F-22 crashes.

Amid growing evidence of issues not seen in earlier fighter jets, and facing congressional pressures, the Air Force launched an investigation in 2011. The planes were grounded for several months.

Air Force accident investigators found that the pilot in one crash apparently became disoriented and was unaware of impending danger until it was too late. In another case, the aircraft's air-supply system failed and the pilot did not or could not activate his emergency oxygen supply, became disoriented and made no attempt to right his plane for 31 seconds before crashing into frozen Alaskan soil.

Other pilots have landed safely but with no memory of doing so. One flew through treetops on approach and apparently didn't know it.

The F-22, jointly developed and built by Lockheed Martin and Boeing, is the Air Force's most prized warplane.

The jet, which costs an average of \$412 million, including research and development, is advertised to be nearly invisible to radar. It can fly faster than the speed of sound for long periods and can maneuver and fight at higher altitudes than older fighters.

In an Aug. 1 Pentagon news briefing, Major General Charles Lyon said that the Air Force had conducted a months-long investigation of the problems and symptoms reported by F-22 pilots. The Air Force believes that it has solutions in place and has briefed the pilots, who, Lyon said, are gung-ho to fly the planes.

"We've explained all of this. We've had a lot of ongoing dialogue with them, and what I want you to know is that both they and their families have very high confidence in the F-22," Lyon said.

But not everyone is on board. The wife of one longtime F-22 pilot told the Star-Telegram that her husband and others remain unconvinced by Air Force assurances that the problems are understood and that the plane is safe to fly.

The woman, who asked to remain anonymous because her husband is an active-duty officer, said that she, too, has seen disturbing changes over time. They include a chronic cough, impaired motor skills, loss of concentration and an inability to recall words and facts, as well as lethargy and "crushing headaches."

The symptoms improved last year when the planes were grounded as part of the Air Force investigation, she said.

"I'm concerned. He's concerned. And he's not alone," she said.

Both Tinsley and the other wife said they decided to speak out after the Air Force's vote of confidence in the F-22, and also after two pilots put their careers on the line by refusing to fly the plane and appearing on 60 Minutes in May.

Nothing remarkable

Several theories have been offered about the mysterious problems, but no firm answers. Some blame the system that provides filtered air to the pilots for breathing, or the air that pressurizes the cockpit.

Others suspect that toxic substances are entering the air supplies, either from the F-22's top-secret stealth coatings or perhaps from oils and fluids in the power and hydraulics systems.

Lyon said at the news briefing that the Air Force investigation, which included medical and physiological testing of pilots and blood and air samples, "eliminated contamination as a contributing factor to these incidents."

"We found nothing remarkable."

Neither Lockheed Martin nor Boeing would comment specifically on the health concerns associated with the F-22, referring questions to the Air Force. Lockheed built the fighter's mid-fuselage at its Fort Worth plant.

Joe Stout, a Lockheed spokesman in Fort Worth, said the company "has and continues to support the US Air Force's requirements to ensure the F-22 meets their expectations on availability, performance and reliability."

Lockheed and Boeing recently settled a liability lawsuit filed by Anna Haney, the wife of Captain Jeff Haney, who died in a Nov. 16, 2010, crash in Alaska. Terms of the settlement were not disclosed.

The Air Force's investigation turned up *no smoking gun* to explain the repeated incidents of disorientation, described as hypoxia-like events that suggest pilots aren't getting enough air. Instead, Lyon said, there were *pieces of a mosaic*, or several contributing problems.

The primary culprit, he said, was an air valve that controls the inflation of a pressure vest. The pilots wear the vest to combat blood drain experienced during high-G-force maneuvers. Because of the design of the F-22's oxygen system, the vest was inflating too early in flight, putting added pressure on pilots' chests and restricting their breathing.

The valves are being redesigned and, if they work as expected, will be incorporated into new vests.

Until then, the F-22 is cleared for flying but not at the 50,000-foot-plus altitudes where it's supposed to operate. If war broke out, pilots would have to fly wearing the current vests.

The Air Force also said the air-supply system may not, at times, provide enough oxygen because of leaky fittings and a too-small hose, forcing pilots to work too hard to breathe. Those components will be fixed as well.

As for other symptoms, including breathing problems reported by F-22 ground crews, Lyon said those could be due to hypoglycemia or dehydration. Pilots will be instructed to eat better and get plenty of fluids before flying.

A dozen F-22s were recently deployed to Japan and made the long trans-Pacific flights with no reported problems.

There has not been *an unexplained incident* in which a pilot reported breathing problems or disorientation in more than 8,000 flights and 10,000 flight hours, Lyon said at the briefing.

But as recently as June, a pilot landed at Langley Air Force Base in Virginia and pulled his emergency oxygen supply handle because of breathing "discomfort."

The Air Force said that and another recent incident were due to *mechanical problems* with the air supply.

Welcome to the Raptor

The Air Force's explanations do not satisfy Kevin Divers, a former F-22 flight test engineer and physiology expert who was deeply involved in early testing of the F-22's life-support system.

As far back as 2000, Divers said, the Air Force tests showed that the pressure vest was filling up, but pilots didn't complain that it was a problem.

Also, pilots were reporting minor respiratory problems after flying. Complaints about the now-famous *Raptor cough* and ear blockages were common, Divers said, conditions that pilots still cope with.

"At first we put it down as an annoyance" based on the advice of physiologists, said Divers, who lives near Nashville. "We told the pilots, 'Welcome to the Raptor.'"

The Air Force says most reports of pilot disorientation have come since 2010. Divers, who left the service in 2007, said he's heard from concerned pilots since at least 2008.

Divers said he's pretty sure that a lack of oxygen is not the problem. Too much or, more accurately, too high a concentration of oxygen too soon is a more likely explanation for most symptoms that pilots have reported to him, he said.

The F-22, conceived during the Cold War to fight the Soviets, was designed to provide the pilot with pressurized, highly oxygenated air in case chemical or biological weapons were used. It's unlike any previous fighter jet.

Normal air contains about 21 percent oxygen. The moment F-22 pilots strap on their air masks, they're breathing 60 percent oxygen. Within the seconds it takes the plane to reach 11,000 feet after takeoff, the pilot is breathing air that's 93 percent oxygen.

But that's far more than the body needs except at the highest altitudes and in high-G-force maneuvers, some experts say.

As the aircraft accelerates and the rich oxygen is forced into the lungs and can't be absorbed, it creates a condition called *acceleration atelectasis*, in which alveoli, which transmit oxygen to the blood and remove carbon dioxide, collapse.

That causes breathing to become more labored as pilots maneuver at high speeds, with high G-forces hampering the blood supply. Their blood can't get rid of the carbon dioxide and can't get oxygen to the body's organs.

That could explain the disorientation and dizziness reported by pilots. It's almost like being intoxicated.

"If you get enough of that, you could certainly pass out," said Paul McDonough, an associate professor of kinesiology at the University of Texas at Arlington.

Recovery takes time, McDonough said. The post-flight *Raptor cough* is a sign of the body's attempt to re-inflate the lung tissue and adjust to normal air pressure and oxygen level.

Little research has been done on the effects of repeated episodes of acceleration atelectasis, McDonough said. "The more exposure you get, the more symptoms you would see."

An Air Force medical officer downplayed the problem.

"I'm 100 percent convinced we do have acceleration atelectasis in the Raptor ... but it clears up in a matter of minutes or hours," said Lieutenant Colonel Jay Flottmann, chief of flight safety for the 325th Fighter Wing at Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida, the training base for new F-22 pilots.

Flottmann is a physician and a qualified F-22 pilot and was involved in much of the work for the life-support-system investigation.

He said that during flights he conducted for the investigation, he, too, suffered breathing discomfort but that it quickly subsided after landing.

Breathing bad air?

Another theory involves toxic fumes, although the Air Force says it has found no evidence to support it.

One former Lockheed Martin engineer who worked on the F-22's development in Marietta, Ga., believes that chemical compounds sprayed on the aircraft to mask it from radar waves could be emitting toxic fumes that find their way into the breathing system and cockpit air.

Darrol Olsen, who lives in Claremore, Okla., spent the better part of two decades working on the Air Force's stealth jets, including Lockheed's F-117 and Northrop Grumman's B-2 bomber.

He was hired by Lockheed in 1995 to develop methods to repair the stealth coatings applied to the F-22. He said the work made him and other employees sick. He worked there until 1999, when he was fired.

"I had exactly the same problems the pilots have had," said Olsen, citing respiratory ailments, vertigo and sleeplessness.

Although the exact contents of the stealth coatings are among the tightest of US military secrets, Olsen said tests showed that they contain diisocyanates, a group of chemical compounds commonly used in paint and plastics manufacturing. Diisocyanates can be toxic if improperly handled and breathed or touched, with respiratory problems a common symptom.

The toxicity question has merit, said former Pentagon official and longtime critic Pierre Sprey, who had a major role in developing the F-16 and A-10 in the 1970s.

Sprey is looking into the F-22 issues as an unpaid consultant for the Project on Government Oversight and believes it's plausible that stealth coatings could cause health problems for pilots and ground crews.

Sprey said that based on his research, "everything says we're dealing with a fast-acting toxin" and that the diisocyanates, in particular, are known to cause respiratory problems.

The Air Force said its investigation into the F-22 problems found no evidence to support Sprey's theory.

"We have gone to efforts unparalleled with any Air Force aircraft to identify if there were any contaminants in the life-support system," Flottmann said.

Senator Mark Warner, R-Va., has been a critic of the Air Force's handling of the F-22 problems. In a statement, Warner said he is “encouraged the Air Force now has dedicated resources and attention to the recurring problems with the F-22” and is waiting to see the results.

“I am troubled by more recent revelations that appear to indicate the concerns about the F-22 life-support system were documented years ago,” Warner said.

Joanna Tinsley is still looking for answers. The Air Force investigation of General Tinsley's death, citing unnamed witnesses, insinuated that he had a serious alcohol problem. Joanna Tinsley said that wasn't the case, although he had been drinking at a party with colleagues in the hours before he took his life.

Divers, the Air Force engineer who knew the General well, concurs with her assessment. “He's the last person I thought would kill himself.”

Tinsley was often on the flight line working with F-22 mechanics, Divers said, which would have increased his exposure to any toxic materials.

Something was wrong with Tinsley's health, Divers and the general's wife say. Something they suspect was linked to the F-22 Raptor.

Now, let me tell you what's really wrong with the F-22 Raptor. It's is not a Northrop-McDonnell Douglas F-23 Black Widow. The YF-23 was stealthier and faster, but less agile than the YF-22. After a four-year development and evaluation process, the YF-22 was announced the winner in 1991 and entered production as the Lockheed Martin F-22 Raptor. The US Navy considered using the production version of the ATF as the basis for a replacement to the F-14, but these plans were later canceled. As of 2009, the two YF-23 prototypes were museum exhibits.

The YF-23 was designed to meet USAF requirements for survivability, supercruise, stealth, and ease of maintenance. Supercruise requirements called for prolonged supersonic flight without the use of afterburners. Northrop drew on its experience with the B-2 Spirit and F/A-18 Hornet to reduce the model's susceptibility to radar and infrared detection. The USAF initially required the aircraft to land and stop within 2,000 feet (610 m), which meant the use of thrust reversers on their engines. In 1987, the USAF changed the runway length requirement to 3,000 feet (914 m), so thrust reversers were no longer needed. This allowed the aircraft to have smaller engine nacelle housings. The nacelles were not downsized on the prototypes. That's my opinion and belief. I'm about 110% sure. The YF-22 was selected due to its agility; what good is agility if it gets you killed? I've been on the F-23 soapbox for a while now. Mentioned it in Earthquake.

TOM – Chapter 9

So far the authorities have concentrated on large cities, excluding California, Hawaii, Illinois, Massachusetts, Maryland, New Jersey and New York. The exclusion is mostly rural; big cities are under the gun. While Illinois apparently doesn't have a magazine capacity regulation, I included them because their politicians are horses' hind ends of the first order and Obama is from Illinois, after he moved from Kenya to Hawaii to Indonesia and Illinois. Are you getting the picture here about how I feel about *The Man Who Would Be King*? It was a novella by Rudyard Kipling. The movie starred James Bond, Alfie and General Chang. Funny, I was a Mason for 30+ years and no one offered to make me king.

None of us can figure out how to get a firearm to fire if the safety is on and nobody pulls the trigger. We are beginning to suspect the trigger pulling isn't that far in the future. We aren't looking forward to a 2nd Revolution or 2nd Civil War; from appearances sake, one or the other is looking for us. MSM is unusually quiet on the subject, concentrating on local news and world news and avoiding national news like the plague. That should tell the population something, but what?

Moreover, the feds had 6 million LTS meals stored and early in 2012 ordered another 420 million. They would add an additional 420 million each year that followed. Folks, that makes a total $6+5(420) = 2,106$ million meals stored in salt mines somewhere. That 6 million meal order stripped Oregon Freeze Dry's supplies of Mountain House meals for the better part of a year. Thank God we were able to get what we wanted before Nitro-Pak and Emergency Essentials cut off the orders.

No, Virginia, I didn't have a clue. I didn't even find out about the \$1 billion order until late August, 2012 when the news came out and everyone and his brother had large orders in. We bought from some other sources and placed our own orders with instructions to fill the orders when they got product to ship. It basically trickled in after we placed the orders. Many of our other purchases went for tea, coffee and Swiss Miss there for a while. I sort of got a chance to get a tour of Oregon Freeze Dry. It came from a friend who sent a link that I followed and had to manipulate to get the YouTube presentation to run.

Derek's cellphone went off.

"You rang?"

"Where are you?"

"You don't think they'll find you? It was sort of an open secret."

"How much?"

"Ok, bring it over and we'll find somewhere to store it. Right, 3 hours."

I hate one sided phone conversations.

“What’s up?”

“My buddy that has the bunker and reloads our ammunition deserted along with several other members of our unit. They took a HMMTT loaded with ammo and are pulling a Conex on a trailer. He’s bringing us the Conex trailer load of 9mm and 5.56x45mm.”

“No 7.62?”

“I don’t know and didn’t think to ask. He knows my/our tastes in rifles, shotguns and pistols so he might have loaded some. I know that the 5.56 is M855A1 because the resupplies of ammo have all been the A1.”

“Spence.”

“Alan.”

“Ok if we just drop the trailer? Don’t want to be here as long as it would be to unload it.”

“Did you bring any M118LR?”

“And you are?”

“His father.”

“Tired Old Man? I’ll be damned.”

“You just might. If you brought any good 7.62, I’ll put in a good word for you if I go upstairs. I won’t mention you if I go the other direction.”

“It’s loaded along the left side of the trailer. Brought y’all some more of the things y’all have already.”

“No Stingers or Javelins?”

“Sorry.”

“Don’t be. We’d probably get killed figuring out how to use them.”

“I gotta git.”

“Are you still using the frequency list we gave, you Alan?”

“Yep.”

“We’ll be in touch. Eight by eight.”

“Talk to you tomorrow at eight sharp.”

“Let’s park this Conex in my backyard.”

The 20’ Conex was only about ½ full. Considering it was ammo, LAWs and grenades, that was about right. They’re loaded by weight, not volume. It would appear at the outset that there were two groups, one near the Mississippi and one near the western border.

“You like those Glocks?”

“Not particularly.”

“Then, why did you buy them?”

“Cost less than the Taurus.”

“But you bought the Taurus later.”

“Glock didn’t quite feel right. Since we traded rifles and I got the Loaded back, I had to have a M1911 pattern handgun. Maybe it got to be a habit. I will say one thing; we can’t hang anything else off the wheelchair.”

“You don’t have room for smoke?”

“I carry 2 spare packs of KOOLs in that pouch.”

“Not that kind of smoke. I was thinking 2 white smokes, 1 red and 1 green. Alan included a few cases of red and green and several cases of white.”

“Can I hang them from the MOLLE loops?”

“That’s more correctly referred to a PALS grid.”

“Answer the frigin question.”

“Yes.”

“In that case, give me 4 M67s, 4 white smoke, 2 red smoke and 2 green smoke. Check me on this, red smoke is a hot LZ and green smoke is a cold LZ. White smoke provides concealment when one changes locations.”

“You’ve been reading the Field Manuals again.”

“Yep, I wear the headphone to my scanning receiver and read my collection of field manuals.”

“When do you sleep?”

“Between 4am and noon. Get up, go to the john and make myself some breakfast. I’m kind of partial to Hobo eggs. That café in Palmdale made theirs with cottage fries, scrambled eggs, sausage and green pepper with a little onion cooked clear not browned. When I’m done, I rinse the dishes and add them to the dishwasher. Then I get a shower, comb my hair and get dressed.

“Next, I check my supplies on the wheelchair and make sure that everything works as it should. I sometimes have to lube that gadget that swings the armor around front. Bad deal if it were to squeak. I also check my supply of KOOLs, make sure the rifle and shotgun are loaded, etc. I have the wheelchair on charge while I’m sleeping. Then I get my hat and find some shade to watch out for the MZBs.”

“You wear a butch so why comb your hair? What is a MZB?”

“When it grows out, I need a part. MZBs are Mutant Zombie Bikers aka the bad guys. HalfFast coined the term for *Lights Out*. Ask Damon, he’s a member of Zombie Squad.”

“So for the last 10-12 years you’ve been sitting on your butt wearing out keyboards.”

“That about covers it. Say, were there 40mm grenades in that shipment Alan brought?”

“We already have some.”

“Derek, there are some things you can never have too much of, like coffee, toilet paper, ammunition and other matériel. You best get you butt in gear and practice with the Super Match and Tac-50. The further away we can keep them, the better I’ll feel.”

“The only people who showed up here were the ATF.”

“Now there you go again. The Guard is in Jonesboro and that’s too close for comfort. What would we do if they showed up with a couple of Hummers equipped with a Ma Deuce and an Mk-19?”

“I see your point; however I have school and Mary has her job.”

“Quit belly aching, you’re getting free child care and you don’t have to go next door to buy a cigarette from your neighbor anymore. You need a pack? I’ve got generic king sized regulars and menthols.”

“A pack of the non-menthol king sized, ok?”

“They’re on the shelf in the shelter, let yourself in with your key and take a carton.”

“We’re a little light on food.”

“Well then, take some beans, rice, flour, shorting, yeast and cornmeal. There’re several packages of frozen tortillas in the freezer. Those 1 pound bags of pintos are fresh; they’ll cook up just fine. If you’d prefer other beans you’ll have to open one of those pails. We have great northern, navy beans, pinto beans, kidney beans, pinquito beans and red beans. Oh, and several different colors of lentils. Get some ground beef and help yourself to some chuck roasts; they’re marked 7-bone. Get the garden cart to haul the food and get what you need in one trip. I feel a trip to Memphis coming on.”

“I forget to tell you, Damon is coming down and bringing his three kids and Britney’s boyfriend.”

“He buy any guns yet?”

“Got an 870 and a Mare’s Leg.”

“My son the crackpot. What caliber?”

“.45 Colt.”

“Good, I hate to try and find ammo at this particular time. He’s just going to have to settle for the M1A standard model I got off the books and those old T-57 mags. Did the shotgun have rifle sights?”

“Nope.”

“We need to find an 20” 870 barrel bored out for 3” shells with rifle sights and an improved cylinder choke. That way we can just divide up the shotgun shells. Don’t suppose he has a knife, does he?”

“Not that I’m aware of.”

“Did you get my Rambo I straightened out?”

“Sharp enough to shave with.”

“Could you see your way clear to loaning me Rambo III?”

“Wouldn’t you rather have Rambo II?”

“Nah, you two should have the knives with the survival pack in the handle along with the compass. I don’t suppose you have any butt packs.”

“Don’t have any but I know where we can get them. What do you want those for?”

“Bug out bags to supplement the Kifaru Navigators. If you can handle the additional weight, we can get one for you, too.”

“That EMR with the Marauder weighs out close to 90 pounds.”

“With or without firearms?”

“Without.”

“Sixteen magazines for the Super Match?”

“Eighteen. I ran across a butt pouch.”

“I searched and searched for one. Where did you find it?”

“Tactical Tailor. Came with MALICE clips so it’s compatible with ALICE and MOLLE. I got 3 while I was at it. Like an idiot I spent the grocery money on magazine pouches.”

“There’s plenty food, take more. Did they have butt pouches for the M-16s?”

“They did, but Alan tossed in a box of those so we don’t need to buy them. The \$64 question is when Damon will make it to Lake City.”

“Any idea how large the detachment is in Jonesboro?”

“Not really. It could be 2 Platoons or a Company. The emphasis will be on the larger cities like Little Rock.”

“Check it out and let me know.”

“If I get the chance, I’ll do that.”

“Show them your retired military ID card and engage someone in some idle chit chat. Have you started getting your retirement checks yet?”

“Got a notice of a processing delay that indicated we’d get the first check next month and it would include any back retirement pay.”

TOM – Chapter 10

“Our government in inaction.”

“Same stuff, different day.”

“How are we going to handle the Guard when they show up?”

“We’ll lock you in the shelter with all the toys and I’ll keep my retired ID card handy.”

“Where are the closest commissaries?”

“Little Rock AFB Commissary and Memphis NSA Commissary.”

“If you’re going to Memphis, we should ride along and go to Costco and Sam’s Club.”

“We’ll probably shop there too. Sometimes the Commissary charges more than they do... it depends on what you buy. Smokes are almost cheaper in Missouri than the PX.

Damon arrived that afternoon in a convoy with Britney’s boyfriend, Lars. I figured Scandinavian. Figured right, he was from Minnesota and of Norwegian descent. Lots of Scandinavians in Minnesota since it was similar to their home countries, Sweden and Norway. Damon had that durned Mare’s Leg strapped on. At least he had .45 Colt cartridges as opposed to the .45-70 cartridges Josh Randall wore in *Wanted Dead or Alive*. Randall’s Mares Leg was a modified ’92 Winchester in .44-40.

We had the off-the-books M1A standard and the 20 T-57s. We also had a Remington 870 20” barrel with rifle sights and 3” chamber and my original PT-1911, the one without the rails. I’d replaced Derek’s PT-1911B with a PT-1911B-1, with rails and a Surefire light. Damon got 2 magazines and Derek kept the extra 5. We had also picked up 25 more 25-round CMI magazines to replace the 20 T-57s given to Damon.

In summary, we had a backyard shelter, clean air, water, food, weapons, ammo, certain explosives along with my 7kw gasoline generator. We acquired empty 55-gallon drums and were accumulating gasoline and stabilizing it with PRI-G. We even had Cowboy Guns. Plus travel restrictions hadn’t been established, yet, allowing us to accumulate additional ‘supplies’ as time and money permitted.

We kept a set of lists, each prioritized, for the various ‘supplies’. We had enough military caliber ammo to last two lifetimes. What we needed for ammo was strictly civilian calibers. Due to the President, it was only available on the ‘black market’ at a slightly elevated price to reflect the risks associated with dealing in the ammo. Still, the going prices weren’t totally unreasonable and we filled a few holes. My list was short: 87-octane unleaded, PRI-G, Charmin, Folgers, Swiss Miss, Earl Grey and KOOLs. We’d already stocked up on Gatorade 02 Perform 1 Quart Powder Pouch, Lemon Lime flavor, pur-

chasing 5 144-package sets and Gatorade 02 Perform 2.5 Gallon Powder Pouch, Lemon Lime flavor.

I can still recall the day when Gatorade was introduced at Huey's grocery store in Nashua. I was given a sample to taste and asked my opinion. It was refreshing and I said so and inquired what the product was. The salesman's answer was 'bottled sweat'. Gatorade and like products not only keep you fit, they can serve as replenishment fluids in blood loss. While normal saline might be good, and Ringer's better, not everyone is trained to establish IVs nor does everyone have multiple Combat Lifesavers bags. It was easy to add a small pack to a liter of water after removing enough water to make room for the powder, producing a quart of Gatorade replacing the important electrolytes.

On the subject of my mobility issues, the boys determined that I needed a few fighting positions with OSB floors and long ramps given the limited grade the chair could climb. They dug four. One each in our front and back yards and one each in Derek and Mary's front and back yards. Each position was stocked with the items I would require regardless of the situation, including ammo, water, some of those Hungry Man MREs from Nitro-Pak and large bags of beef jerky and trail-mix (Gorp).

Since Derek and I both had 7 8-round PT1911 magazines, I gave Damon a single dual pouch, but only because we couldn't get more of the Taurus magazines. If 40 rounds won't get you to your rifle or shotgun, you left the firearm too far from your location. I always carried the Taurus in condition one, a round chambered, full magazine in place, hammer cocked, safety on. Since the Glocks were DAO, they too had a round chambered; that was necessary due to what I thought was excessive trigger pull.

I'd given up and given in to wearing Propper MultiCams so I had 4 sets plus a boonie hat. All I had to do to blend in was dismount my wheel chair, weapon(s) in hand. Those were what I was wearing the day Hummer pulled up and a Sergeant and 2nd Lieutenant climbed out. I snapped the LT the sharpest salute I could manage and held out my hand to the Sergeant (E-5).

"What can I do for you today Lieutenant?"

"You can start out by handing over those weapons."

"Will do... one bullet at a time... who's first?"

"Now see here, we're prepared to use force."

"And, I'm not? Look down the barrel of this one," I said presenting the PT1911. "Is the barrel large enough to get your attention? This here is the Taurus made PT-1911B-1. It features an 8 round magazine, Novak sights, and now is in condition zero. Oh, almost forgot, it's loaded with 200gr +P Speer Gold Dot."

"You think you can take 5 of us?"

"I only need to take 2; my boys will take care of the other 8. They have the same handgun and I bought ALL of the ammo."

"Let me guess. Cold dead hands and you're a life member?"

"Since '64, but it's upgraded to Benefactor. The M1A is loaded with 168gr BTHP and the shotgun with 15-pellet 00 buckshot. Plus I'm wearing 3 Glocks all .45acp, have a good knife, bayonet, a machete and have a bad attitude that is getting worse by the moment."

"You ever look down the barrel of a Ma Deuce?"

"Go ahead; no one is going to fire that machine gun."

"Sez who?"

"Derek?"

"Yes Dad?"

"Those gunners even looks like they're going for the guns, pop them. Damon, are you and the boys around?"

"Who do we shoot?"

"The rest in the 2 Hummers; we'll shoot, shovel and shut-up. That's up to them."

"I'll be back."

"Hold it right there L-T. I should point out that you don't have a lot in common with Arnold. Him I'd believe. You, we'll be prepared for. Besides, you aren't the only one with a .50 caliber."

"You wouldn't dare!"

"Try me."

They left, probably to get reinforcements. The thing about Butter Bars is they're the bottom of the food chain. Someone must have overruled him or the trip that Derek made to Jonesboro was fruitful. After all, he'd been hooked up with the Arkansas National Guard since his return from Iraq in October, 2006. Derek doesn't talk a lot about some of his activities. Just as he hadn't talked about his deployments to Korea, Kosovo, Iraq and Afghanistan, he didn't mention his trip to Jonesboro. He always just 'did his job'.

"Dad, why are you so outspoken about gun rights?" Damon asked.

“When the Nazis came for the communists, I remained silent; I was not a communist. When they locked up the social democrats, I remained silent; I was not a social democrat. When they came for the trade unionists, I did not speak out; I was not a trade unionist. When they came for the Jews, I remained silent; I wasn't a Jew. When they came for me, there was no one left to speak out.”

“I've heard that before.”

“It was in one or more of my stories. I was part of a sermon by a German Minister given in 1946. I believe the point is that we must stand up for our beliefs and rights. The state of California slowly took away the rights of its citizens beginning with Roberti-Roos. When we moved there in '82, everything was fine. I bought a stainless Mini-14 from Gemco for less than \$300, including tax. When we started buying my replacement guns in 2006, the rifles couldn't be on the banned list and the handguns had to be on the approved list. I have no idea why they overlooked shotguns for the most part. I suppose because the worst you could do was add a bayonet.

“I may be a native Californian, but that was an accident of birth... I don't brag about it. Of course, Iowa is almost as bad as California except they're now shall issue. I'm surprised that California hasn't eliminated concealed carry entirely except for law enforcement. Do you remember this?”

I hold it, that a little rebellion, now and then, is a good thing, and as necessary in the political world as storms in the physical.

God forbid we should ever be twenty years without such a rebellion. The people cannot be all, and always, well informed. The part which is wrong will be discontented, in proportion to the importance of the facts they misconceive. If they remain quiet under such misconceptions, it is lethargy, the forerunner of death to the public liberty. ... What country before ever existed a century and half without a rebellion? And what country can preserve its liberties if their rulers are not warned from time to time that their people preserve the spirit of resistance? Let them take arms. The remedy is to set them right as to facts, pardon and pacify them. What signify a few lives lost in a century or two? The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants. It is its natural manure.

Of liberty I would say that, in the whole plenitude of its extent, it is unobstructed action according to our will. But rightful liberty is unobstructed action according to our will within limits drawn around us by the equal rights of others. I do not add "within the limits of the law" because law is often but the tyrant's will, and always so when it violates the rights of the individual.

“When did he die?”

“On the same day as John Adams.”

“Ok, when did John Adams die?”

“July 4, 1826, the 50th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.”

Derek walked up about then and asked, “Adams or Jefferson?”

Damon and I answered, “Both.”

“But you’re a Jeffersonian, right?”

“I believe in many of the same principles he believed in. Lincoln summarized it best in the Gettysburg Address when he said ...*that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.* Lincoln was fighting over States’ Rights and Jefferson strongly espoused them.”

“This country was never intended to have a strong central government.”

“Learn that studying history did you?”

“As a matter of fact...”

“What else has life taught you?”

“Shoot first and more accurately.”

“Even if it’s a cowboy gun?”

“Especially if it’s a cowboy gun.”

If you’ve read Jerry’s *Cowboy*, you understand why he said that. The principal problem with a single action revolver is the limited number of shots before you have to reload. None of us have Gene Autry or Roy Rogers 40 shot revolvers. Had a chance to see Autry’s Museum of Western Heritage and he has more guns than Roy Rogers. I can’t recall if any were special pieces, like Billy the Kid’s etc. He had one of everything, for sure.

These days, it is all part of **The Autry National Center of the American West**. It includes:

Museum of the American West (formerly known as the Autry Museum of Western Heritage) – You are invited to explore the rich cultural tapestry of the American West. Our wide-ranging exhibitions, collections, programs, and educational offerings connect the past to the present and showcase the history of the region west of the Mississippi River.

Southwest Museum of the American Indian – The Southwest Museum holds one of the nation's most important museum, library, and archive collections related to the American Indian. In addition it has extensive holdings of pre-Hispanic, Spanish colonial, Latino, and Western American art and artifacts.

Institute for the Study of the American West – The Institute for the Study of the American West stimulates the production of original and important scholarship to inform the Autry National Center's exhibitions, programs, and publications as well as the field of Western history. The Institute provides researchers with access to the Autry National Center's broad range of resources and collections to enhance public understanding of the region's histories and diverse peoples.

Although not part of the Autry National Center, the Gene Autry Oklahoma Museum is a fan favorite. The Gene Autry Oklahoma Museum holds an outstanding collection of memorabilia of Gene Autry, Roy Rogers, Rex Allen, Tex Ritter, Jimmy Wakely, Eddie Dean, and many others who appeared in the much-loved musical Western movies of the 1930s and '40s.

TOM – Chapter 11

The Guard, as mentioned, never came back. Little as they were, we planted gardens. The two largest were behind the homes Derek and Damon rented and the smallest was behind our home. We did potatoes, squash, peppers, tomatoes and onions. The yard birds had more space and also planted the Blue Wonder bush green beans, cabbage, iceberg lettuce and celery. They divided the various crops to eliminate most of the duplication.

They did a lot of scrounging rounding up Mason jars and lids. We filled in giving them Tattler lids and rings. Plus, determined not to make myself out as a liar, we bought more rice and several kinds of beans. The odds and ends included sugar, bread flour, yeast, baking soda and baking powder. Spices included salt, pepper, chili powder and about another dozen spices, one or the other of us wanted.

When Sharon ordered Mason jars from Canning Pantry, she chose to order spices. She bought pickling mixes by the dozens and tomato sauces too. The latter included pasta sauce, pizza sauce, chili seasoning and ketchup mix. The ketchup was okay, but nothing to write home about and I'd eaten better chili. The pasta sauces were pretty good.

She phoned in the order and made it contingent on them either filling the entire order or canceling the entire order. Considering the number of Mason jars she ordered, a semi showed up a few days later, with everything. We used gherkins for most of the pickles due to their size, especially the sweet pickles. The larger gherkins were processed as either sliced dills or bread and butter with the large standard cucumbers turned into polish or kosher dills after processing. We didn't spare the garlic. At least I ended up with thin sliced, unwrinkled dill chips. The GE food processor wouldn't cut the slices thick enough and I cut them all on a mandolin slicer. Let me assure you, a mandolin slicer isn't for the faint of heart.

"It appears we're set until this time next year in the food department."

"If we get to keep it."

"Why wouldn't we?"

"Executive Order 10998."

"They can't do that."

"Derek, read my lips, sure they can. The federal government can do whatever it wants, whenever it wants, wherever it wants, however it wants to whoever it wants with or without a legitimate reason. We the people have limited choices to fall back on. A civil war is a war between organized groups within the same nation state or republic, or, less commonly, between two countries created from a formerly united nation state. The aim

of one side may be to take control of the country or a region, to achieve independence for a region, or to change government policies.

“A Revolution, by contrast, is a fundamental change in power or organizational structures that takes place in a relatively short period of time. Aristotle described two types of political revolution: Complete change from one constitution to another or, Modification of an existing constitution. Revolutions have occurred through human history and vary widely in terms of methods, duration, and motivating ideology. Their results include major changes in culture, economy, and socio-political institutions.

“And that is why I like Thomas Jefferson. We’re overdue for an insurrection. There are a number of terms that are associated with rebel and rebellion. They range from those with positive connotations to those with pejorative connotations. Examples include:

- Civil resistance, civil disobedience, and nonviolent resistance which do not include violence or paramilitary force
- Mutiny, which is carried out by military or security forces against their commanders
- Armed resistance movement, which is carried out by freedom fighters, often against an occupying foreign power
- Revolt, a term that is sometimes used for a more localized rebellions rather than a general uprising
- Revolution, which is carried out by radicals, usually meant to overthrow the current government
- Subversion, which are non-overt attempts at sabotaging a government, carried out by spies or other subversives
- Terrorism, which is carried out by different kinds of political, economic or religious militant individuals or groups

“Jefferson said *God forbid we should ever be twenty years without such a rebellion.* We need to update the Constitution to eliminate the ambiguities and lift the country from the burden of socialism. Where are we going to have our Lexington and Concord?”

“Derek, don’t listen to Dad, his way has too many downsides. A lot of people would die and I think that everyone on the dole would fight to support the Administration, along with a few others I’m sure that Dad could name.”

“You won’t support the cause?”

“I’ll support it. I think that Derek and you will get me killed.”

“The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.”

“So, you just want to start shooting people?”

“I didn’t say that and it isn’t my preferred course of action. We don’t really have to be the people that fired the second shot heard around the world. I think we should support them when it happens. We all have some experience in the military even if it’s a long time ago. Only Derek is current in his training and I’m of the opinion he should direct our efforts. We’re facing a different enemy this time, Americans. Whatever our course of action, it won’t be easy.”

“What about the foreign troops Obama invited in?”

“What about it? They’re live targets all the time. I’m not so sure we have enough M67s, 40mm grenades and M72A7s. If we run into any, we’ll probably be forced to shoot them.”

The second shot heard around the world came not from Lexington or Concord. It came from New York City where even cops needed special permission to possess guns beyond their duty weapons. At least it was a rifle shot and didn’t come from a handgun. The Medical Examiner determined the round was ~168gr 7.62, probably NATO. It sort of got interesting because there are 8 million stories in *The Naked City*. Actually there were more stories than foreign troops.

It was expensive ammo aimed at a highly trained Spetsnaz officer. The ME only recovered the two torso rounds, the headshot disappeared. But, you say, NATO doesn’t have a 168 grain round. Bzzz, gotcha! Cartridge, Caliber 7.62mm, NATO, Match, M852 (United States): 168-grain 7.62x51mm NATO Hollow-Point Boat-Tail cartridge, specifically designed for use in National Match competitions, later approved by US Army JAG for combat use by snipers. However, the bullets weren’t Hornady A-MAX. Hornady and Black Hills cartridges do use the bullet.

We all know how Russian troops react to bad situations due to the Beslan school hostage crisis (also referred to as the Beslan school siege or Beslan massacre) of early September 2004 which lasted three days and involved the capture of over 1,100 people as hostages (including 777 children) and ended with the death of over 380 people. The crisis began when a group of armed separatist militants, mostly Ingush and Chechen, occupied School Number One (SNO) in the town of Beslan, North Ossetia (an autonomous republic in the North Caucasus region of the Russian Federation) on 1 September 2004. The hostage-takers were the Riyadus-Salikhin Battalion, sent by the Chechen separatist warlord Shamil Basayev, who demanded an end to the Second Chechen War and Russian withdrawal from Chechnya. On the third day of the standoff, Russian security forces entered the building with the use of tanks, incendiary rockets and other heavy weapons. At least 334 hostages were killed as a result of the crisis, including 186 children, with a significant number of people injured and reported missing.

For some reason known only to God, I was itching to get into action. Lord knows I’d written about it often enough, even if the stories featured little action *per se*. I did get to wondering just how long that itch would last when the action started. That, in turn, led

me to consider body armor. The chair had the level IIIA shield, but it was attached and I couldn't really shoot around it anyway.

"We have a problem here First Sergeant Ott."

"And, what's bugging you now?"

"We bought MultiCam for everyone including Damon's 5 when they showed up, right?"

"Right."

"We bought everyone Kifaru packs in MultiCam when his highness got squirrely, right?"

"You're on a roll."

"We have gas masks and PPE for everyone including DJ, right?"

"Do you have a point or not?"

"We don't have body armor."

"Do you know how much that weighs?"

"No, but if I wait, I'm sure you'll tell me."

"Thirty pounds minimum depending on how you're equipped. I assume you want level IV?"

"Only if they don't make a level V."

"Some manufacturers claim there is level V but the highest protection level is level IV."

"Which brand?"

"It's not that simple. The Army uses the Improved Outer Tactical Vest and the Corps uses the Improved Modular Tactical Vest. Ours is in Universal Camouflage Pattern and theirs is in MARPAT."

"Do both use ESAPI and ESBI?"

"Plus other options. It can really get heavy."

"Can we get it in MultiCam?"

"I'm not positive, but if there is a will, there has to be a way."

“PALS webbing, groin protector and women’s cuts?”

“Naturally.”

“We’ll find the money and you get sets for everyone including any spares needed. You’d better add some MOLLE pouches for 40mm and the various hand grenades.”

“What do you intent to carry in your Kifaru Navigator?”

“Spare Hornady 168gr A-MAX, Gold Dot and shotgun shells plus 2 or 3 of the Nitro-Pak MREs. I’ll keep the cleaning equipment handy in the butt pack you found. I’ll have the 3 liter Camelbak, my 2 stainless canteens, Micropur, a Katadyn water filter and my PPE and gas mask. It would be nice if you could get some Combat Lifesavers kits. I picked up some QuikClot ACS bandages and some combat battle dressings.”

“How are you going to haul all that?”

“In the trailer I built for my chair.”

“You have high hopes.”

“You saw the movie?”

“Now what?”

“*A Hole in the Head* starting Frank Sinatra, late ‘50s. Main song was *High Hopes*.”

“Now there you go again.”

“I thought you were too young to see the debates.”

“What debates?”

“Ronald Reagan and Jimmy Carter. Reagan used the expression several times in response to some of Carter’s remarks.”

“What did you have for breakfast?”

“I can’t remember.”

“But you can remember the Reagan-Carter debates?”

“Only parts; I have a video on my computer with some of Reagan’s more comical statements. Should have recorded Bush Senior saying *read my lips*. Regardless; the body armor?”

“If you can get the IOTVs in MultiCam to fit everyone, I’ll get the plates and MICH helmets with MultiCam covers. Advanced Combat Helmets aren’t generally available and the Enhanced Combat Helmet is still under development by the Corps. Did you get boonie hats or patrol caps for everyone?”

“Yes... both. I’ll probably just wear my black Wrangler most of the time. I can’t say that I care for either of the two military patterns.”

“What did you wear in the Air Force?”

“A Ridgeway cap until they went to some kind of new patrol cap based on a baseball cap design. My First Sergeant told me to lose the Ridgeway cap *or else*. And, before you ask, I decided not to test him to find out what *or else* meant.

“The 1951 Field Cap was worn during the Korean War. After the Korean War, the cap was replaced by the Ridgeway Cap, a stiffened version of the M1951. The hat became famous outside America by being worn by Fidel Castro. Look it up on Olive Drab dot com. The patrol cap was replaced altogether, early in the Vietnam War, with the baseball-like ‘Cap, Field (Hot Weather)’ and the boonie hat. On June 14, 2011, the M1951/ACU soft patrol cap became once again the primary headgear for all Soldiers as the duty uniform headgear after a 10 year hiatus in favor of the beret, according to Army Directive 2011-11. I couldn’t find any Ridgeway caps in MultiCam.”

“Where did you find one back then?”

“Both Clothing Sales and the BX stocked them.”

“So they were approved for wear?”

“Sort of... you could wear one until someone like your First Sergeant or the Squadron Commander said otherwise. Our Commander was a Captain, like your Company Commanders.”

“One more question before I get this ball rolling; what has gotten you all worked up about playing soldier?”

“Well, I never really had the chance. When I was in the Air Force, Uncle Curt was the Air Force Chief of Staff and it wasn’t until around ’64 that he decided to turn it into a real military organization emphasizing physical fitness, a battle dress uniform complete with blue ascot and so forth and so on. He insisted that everyone be physically fit, well within weight limits and all that jazz. So, I got out and went to college. You pretty much know what happened after that.”

“Have you ever been shot at?”

“Nope.”

“Do you believe you could function in a combat situation, particularly given your age?”

“I wouldn’t mind finding out. Oh, that reminds me. Can you grab enough MARK I Kits or the newer ATNAAs plus CANAs for everyone?”

[The United States military employs a specialized diazepam preparation known as CANA (Convulsive Antidote, Nerve Agent), which contains a mixture of diazepam, atropine and pralidoxime. One CANA kit is typically issued to service members, along with three Mark I NAAK kits, when operating in circumstances where chemical weapons in the form of nerve agents are considered a potential hazard. Both of these kits deliver drugs using autoinjectors. They are intended for use in "buddy-aid" or "self-aid" administration of the drugs in the field prior to decontamination and delivery of the patient to definitive medical care. Typical use is 3 Mark I followed by 1 CANA.]

“Would you rather have it and not need it or need it and not have it? If ‘they’ use nerve gas and you don’t have it, you’re going to die. That’s true even if you don your gas mask timely since nerve agents are absorbed through the skin.”

“Ok, you work on the MultiCam IOTVs and I’ll work on the plates, helmets and nerve agent antidotes. I have to say that I can’t believe it will come to that because, as you said, he won’t have any subjects to rule.”

“I’m not worried about our government using them; I’m worried about the Russians and Chinese primarily. And you’d better hope Iran, Syria and or Lebanon haven’t joined the *Coalition of the Willing*. I don’t know exactly what you plan to do when we get involved. If the OpFor isn’t American, I plan on shooting first and discussing it later.”

“You should give Damon the Loaded and take back the Super Match. I’ll stick with the Tac-50A1R2 and a HK416 or 417.”

“Who gets the standard?”

“Either Aaron or Erik and we’ll give a SR-556 to Lars.”

“I haven’t spent much time getting to know him. Will he be ok if push comes to shove?”

“He should since he made it through boot camp before being given a medical discharge because he ruined a knee in Jump School.”

“Check and see if we can get him a HK416 or 417 and we can give Britney and Erik the SR-556s.”

“I’ll need a grand.”

“Cash ok?”

“Perfect.”

You should understand that coming up with IOTVs in MultiCam would have been nearly impossible during *normal* times and times were anything but *normal*. We had a little money accumulated and the old saw says money talks and BS walks. I got enough IOTVs for everyone including DJ. Derek had measured everyone heads to ensure he had a MICH for everyone with extra MultiCam covers. He chose the 3 largest helmet sizes for DJ and even picked up an HK416 for him out of his pocket to go with Lars' HK417.

Alan had acquired more smoke and fragmentation grenades so Derek brought back *more* of those. He also had a few more cases of M855A1 and M118LR, I didn't bother counting them. We weren't going to run out of ammo anytime soon. When he'd been in Fayetteville, he drove up to Bolivar and persuaded DJ to come back with him. DJ wasn't a half bad looking young man; but let me tell you, he had an attitude. He really wasn't entitled to it either, Jolene had shacked up with a guy the minute Derek left for Korea and had divorce papers in hand when he returned from his tour. Derek paid every penny of child support he was obligated to pay despite Jolene's family all making out that the divorce was Derek's fault.

Everyone was fitted with the body armor, plates and so forth. MultiCam pouches for magazines and grenades were also added. Since my FMCO vest had no provisions for armor plates, I put it up for later. Although I was down to 140 pounds due to the heat, humidity and general loss of appetite, the chair was close to overloaded when I had everything strapped on. We added a clip to hold the shield swung back along the side of the chair, leaving it attached just in case. Derek had added some kind of clip-on night vision made by Knight's Armament to the Nightforce scope on the Super Match but I still wasn't worth a damn beyond 800 meters.

Because the HK417 used optional 50 round drums, I added a 417 and 6 drums of 168gr Hornady A-MAX which reached the limit the chair could carry. I also added 1 XS Products M14 50-round drum for the Super Match. Extra ammo, grenades of all types and rockets were towed behind the chair since I had the trailer. We were none too soon with our preparations either. The first reports we heard on the amateur net were foreign troops in Little Rock and at the military bases/posts within the state.

The Guard unit that had scoured Jonesboro had completed their task and departed for parts unknown, apparently leaving the community defenseless. In a matter of days, the Jonesboro residents were armed to the teeth and carrying openly; and probably concealed as well. Someone had come up with a supply of A2s and after checking Derek suggested they looked a lot like the worn-out A2s from Fort Chaffee. The National Guard, he claimed, was at the bottom of the list when it came to equipment, including rifles.

While their issue ammo was M855A1, their practice ammo was frangible. Since Alan had removed most of the M855A1 from the Fort, the folks in Jonesboro were probably carrying rifles loaded with frangible. There was that missing 5.56 from the gun stores in Jonesboro to consider, so one couldn't really make any assumptions.

DJ gave me the once over and ignored me thereafter. It was no skin off my nose so I eliminated my walks down to Derek and Mary's. He worked some kind of deal with Damon and DJ's training on the M1A began. The rifle was only equipped with iron sights but Derek came up with a scope and mounts from somewhere. The rifle had 6 lands and grooves and 1:11 turns but the barrel was standard, not match grade, and it showed. Nonetheless, DJ was doing very well to 600 meters and was working up to 800 meters, if possible. What a difference 40+ years make.

The only thing wrong with my Loaded was operator error. The rifle came with the Technical Manual and I downloaded the Field Manual in 2006. The fact that the Sauer und Sohn failed to feed would no doubt be remedied when Derek got off his butt and had the feed ramp polished. I suspected the problem when it wouldn't feed Hydra Shok. The PT-1911B-1 feeds the Gold Dot like a champ.

For some late night entertainment, I read *Breakdown* by MisguidedChild. 1. The Glock 31, 32 and 33 are chambered in .357 SIG, not .357 Magnum and absolutely won't shoot .38 Special ammo. Developed in 1994, the new cartridge was named "357" to highlight its purpose: to duplicate the performance of 125-grain (8.1 g) .357 Magnum loads fired from 4-inch (100 mm) barreled revolvers, in a cartridge designed to be used in a semi-automatic pistol. 2. The civilian version of the M14 rifle most certainly isn't the M1A1, jeez Louise. 3. And, last but not least, and I could be wrong but, I doubt you can convert an AR-15 to full auto by filing down the sear. Maybe I'm wrong; I don't care for the pool shooter for several reasons but especially due to the direct impingement gas system as opposed to the piston system used by Ruger and developed by Armalite for the AR-18 and AR-180.

If Ruger had just incorporated the firing mechanism from the AC-556 in the SR-556, the rifle would be worth the two grand they cost. Ruger took off the sights and reduced the price about \$600 calling the revised model the E model. And if that was all they did, they would have been a good buy. The thing was, the sights weren't the only changes they made. Remember, you get what you pay for and that is why M1As cost as much as they do. Plus they gouge a little when you make a simple request like combining two versions of the Super Match into a new version. Oh well, I got what I paid for which is exactly what I wanted... my own version of the M21.

I was explaining to Jerry about movies, songs and me. It's memory by association. Example: Melanie Safka aka Melanie has *A Brand New Pair of Roller Skates* (*Brand New Key*). She also did a cover of *Dust in the Wind*. Looking to download her song from YouTube, way back when, I found the original version of the Song by Kansas and downloaded it, too. Then I researched the Kansas (band) and its membership changes faster than I change my mind. The lead singer for *Dust in the Wind* was Steve Walsh

and the bearded violin player and co-singer was Robby Steinhardt, both of whom disappear only to later reappear as members of the band. It's like a roller coast or maybe a carousel, you need a program to know the players.

Seven hundred plus videos and counting! *Kansas (band)* is the search term for Wiki when it comes back up.

TOM – Chapter 12

“I screwed up.”

“What did you do now?”

“Not now, before.”

“Get to the point.”

“Your broken arm came too early. If we’d handled it better, we might have finessed it into 100% disability.”

“Loss of a limb is only 25% disability; how many times do I have to tell you that?”

“How about a Hummer accident with 2 broken arms and 2 broken legs? That adds up to 100%.”

“Temporarily. The broken bones heal and you’re no longer disabled.”

“You can use my wheelchair.”

“Stop already! What’s really bothering you?”

“*The Russians are coming, the Russians are coming.*”

“So?”

“It’s an aboveground shelter.”

He almost believed me.

“I’m sure some of the Peacekeepers will probably fan out after they secure the military installations and larger cities. One man’s Freedom Fighter is another’s Insurgent. We’re just going to need to do the best we can and c’est la vie.”

“Can’t we get some armor? Even a Bradley would look pretty good at the moment.”

“It’s fair to say we have all we’re going to get, Dad.”

“Unfortunately, I agree. El Degüello?”

“We’ll have to do the Peacekeepers; but if the OpFor is American, I not sure.”

“What are you two scheming about?”

“Whether or not to take prisoners should the circumstances arise.”

“I’m not going to kill any Americans regardless of which side they’re on. The reason I came over was that I heard an interesting discussion on 75 meters. I eavesdropped on a conversation among three home grown patriot groups. As much as I could make out, they’re prepping for an operation. It was hard to get many details because they used euphemisms and code words about many of the mission details.”

“Are they local?”

“One group is local but I got the impression that the other groups are probably further out. From something one said I’d put them in southwest Arkansas like Texarkana, Magnolia or Arkadelphia and the third guy said it was shame Issac Parker wasn’t still around.”

“Fort Smith.”

“I tend to agree with Dad; it’s probably Fort Smith.”

“Do we try to hook up with the local group or go it alone?”

“Hook up,” Damon suggested.

“Let’s not rush into anything big brother. It might be wise to check out the local group before rushing headlong into something that could turn around and bite us on the butt. Dad?”

“I’ve been a loner since I was in kindergarten. Always have been, always will be. There could be safety in numbers, or not. An informed choice is always the best choice. Can you check them out Derek?”

“I’ll concentrate on locating a member and go from there. It may take a while.”

“Just make sure we don’t get involved with Thom Robb or his group.”

“I will.”

“Who is Thom Robb?”

“Damon, Thom Robb is the national director of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, and a pastor at the Christian Revival Center. They’re located in Boone County, Arkansas.”

“Where’s that?”

“West of Flippin. Unfortunately this is the type of situation he might be inclined to take every advantage of.”

“I thought the Klan was long gone.”

“They’re more underground but far from gone. Put together with the number of white supremacist groups in states like Idaho and other areas, there’s a lynch mob with the president as their target number one. Remember Ruby Ridge and Waco? Between the UN Peacekeepers, the initial stages of a possible 2nd Revolution or Civil War and the hate groups, this is going to be complicated.”

I added it up in my head. We had a president who would be king if he had his way. He had brought or allowed UN Peacekeepers to come in and most were Russian or Chinese. The 2nd shot heard around the world had been fired. *The Game* was afoot. I have one thing in common with James T. Kirk; I don’t believe in a no win scenario. We had imperatives when we engaged in *The Game*. Above all, patience would be our byword and caution our governing principle. We might have more small arms and matériel available than the average citizen because we stretched some laws and broke others.

Our equipment covered a broad range. The OpFor had more and many things far more powerful than our meager armory. The foreign OpFor used 7.62×39mm and 5.45×39mm ammo and wouldn’t be a source of resupply unless we seized weapons. Since my computer library included several field manuals and details pertaining to foreign explosive ordnance, especially hand grenades, we could use theirs if we captured any. Dad might offer a suggestion here and there but First Sergeant Ott was in total command.

My first step was unloading my hind end from the wheelchair and taking Elizabeth for longer walks. Not Elizabeth my granddaughter. Sixty years of sucking cancer sticks had resulted in COPD requiring frequent breaks to catch my breath. My stride was about 28” and Elizabeth’s was about 4”, she’s a Yorkie and goes a whopping 8 pounds (she’s overweight). Enjoying a smoke on my walk didn’t ease the situation.

Within 2 weeks we had it up to 8 blocks but I had to put Elizabeth in the house before the second lap. One thing that a person needs to know about me is that I can’t run. Literally! Maybe it’s the diabetic neuropathy... whatever, I simply can’t do it. Hell, I can’t even walk really fast because I get winded, in a hurry. Bottled oxygen might help but I’m not going there. Fleataxi was on oxygen for years and look what it got him. Like I’ve told the boys, I’m going to live until I die and not one minute longer... do not resuscitate. Feel free to plug leaks, I have QuikClot ACS. But only flesh wounds, whatever they are. A final word on my medical conditions, I’m not complaining, what is just is.

My Loaded was good for six hundred meters on a good day with the scope. That’s 656 yards or 1,968 feet. It’s only important because I can’t really see that far. Picked up 3 sets of binoculars and they weren’t the Steiner brand. Derek did get a large quantity of AN/PVS-14s to place in the mounts on the K-Pots. I was reasonably sure of the source, but didn’t ask. They’re only good for ~300 meters while with the MUNS you can see forever.

I'd really like to pick up 2 more MUNS (AN/PVS-27), but I'm short on loose change. I could buy a new car for what 2 cost. And, it's way iffy if Optics Planet was even open. They're in Northbrook, IL which is the long way of saying Chicago. The Russians probably flew right into O'Hare. I checked for alternatives at those websites still up and everything in that class of items by that manufacturer ran around 10-12 grand. Oh well, plan B. Hang on while I think up a plan B, but don't hold your breath.

The Super Match now sports the Nightforce NXS 8-32x56 with Mil Dot reticle, the Surefire suppressor and the Harris bipod creating the perfect medium range (1,000 meters maximum) sniper weapon. The Tac-50A1R2 sports the Nightforce 12-42x56 with Mil Dot reticle, the Elite Iron suppressor (flashhider), the bipod and the MUNS creating and even better long range (2,000 meters plus) sniper weapon.

"Is there a back way into Northbrook?"

"Where is Northbrook?"

"The big windy."

"Let me check."

"Do you know how far that is?"

"Six hundred miles one way?"

"Five hundred thirty seven, each way. What are you looking for?"

"Optics Planet. More specifically their warehouse."

"Right. And if we went and just happened to find the warehouse, then what?"

"All the AN/PVS-27s they have on hand."

"I thought you were a big fan of the ITT Raptor."

"I was, then. Things have changed with the times and anything good enough for United States Marine Corps snipers is good enough for us."

"And, all the service stations will be open between here and Chicago?"

"I don't know. I thought maybe we'd haul our own fuel. Call it 1,100 miles round trip at 15 miles per gallon. That's roughly 75 gallons rounding up plus we'd start out with a full tank. Can we find 2 55-gallon drums just to be on the safe side?"

"I can get the drums. The question is can you afford the gas at six bucks a gallon for 87 octane."

"Let's see, that's 110 times 6 or \$660. I can do that since it beats the hell out of \$22,000. And, we might get lucky and find more than two. I suppose I need to fill your tank besides."

"Well..."

"Like I said, it's cheaper than the alternative. And, if they don't have UNS or MUNS, they carry a full line of night vision."

"Just you and me?"

"Yeah, let's leave Damon, Aaron, Erik and Lars to guard the home front."

"Just make sure we arm Mom, Mary and Britney before we head out. Tomorrow?"

"Tomorrow, tomorrow, I love you tomorrow; you're only a day away."

"What was that line out of *Top Gun*? Oh yeah, don't give up your day job."

"I don't work."

"You're lucky you don't have to sing for your supper."

"Is THAT why I've been losing weight?"

"I think that's probably the heat, humidity and you walking 8 blocks a day."

"I'm up to 12 blocks a day."

"How far can you run?"

"Three steps give or take."

"What do you want to do about weapons load out?"

"How about we take the HK417s and the handguns?"

"Glocks or Taurus?"

"Taurus. I'll borrow the mag pouch from Damon and we'll both have 57 rounds loaded."

"Any chance of getting more Taurus magazines?"

“We can’t from Optics Planet although they do carry mag pouches. If we find any gun stores on the way, we can check.”

Long story short all of the Interstate highways were blocked. We got there, eventually, found what we were looking for, in Spades, and grabbed some firearm accessories, mostly Nightforce scopes and magazine pouches. On the way back, we detoured to Geneseo and shopped further. I can assure you that we won’t run out of Super Match rifles anytime soon. We have to paint the barrels but what the heck. The same applies to 20 round magazines, 10 round magazines and even 5 round magazines. We added scope mounts along with the same Harris bipod on our Super Match. That left us short the HB2R adapters and the suppressors; again, what the heck.

We found a gun store on the way back that had two things going for it. It was closed. It had a Taurus sign in the window. Since we had the pouches from Optics Planet, we filled them and borrowed all the .45acp they had in stock. If push came to shove, we could blame it on the Russians who were occupying Illinois. That’s not to say commies weren’t running Chicago before, but it’s not my place to make such an assertion.

The dealer in Jonesboro may have had empty shelves, but his back room certainly wasn’t empty. Now, each and every M1A, regardless of model, had a scope, bipod and suppressor. Talk about being in hog heaven! Plus, he had several cases of Black Hills 7.62x51mm ammo. Suffice it to say he cooperated... he was a member of the local group. He even threw in silicon gun cloths to wipe the drool marks off the rifles. The Zeiss scope was relegated to the standard model and the Loaded now sported the same Nightforce NXS 8-32x56 riflescope with Mil Dot reticle, the bipod, suppressor, etc.

The trip north also provided more than enough magazine pouches in addition to being revealing. The troops in Chicago had to be Spetsnaz. From what we observed they were skilled, efficient and hardcore. It only took a single observation to disclose their policy regarding those who failed to cooperate and it reminded me of the scene from Red Dawn where people were lined up and the dissenting opinions eliminated permanently using DShK Heavy Machine Guns. Derek identified the guns since he’d seen them before.

“I never thought I’d live to see the day where we went shopping when the places of businesses were closed.”

“In the beginning, God said let there be light. Get used to it, it might be necessary to do it again before this situation is resolved.”

“Which situation?”

“At the risk of repeating myself we have a president who would be king if he has his way. He had brought or allowed UN Peacekeepers to come in and most were Russian or Chinese. The 2nd shot heard around the world has been fired. *The Game* is afoot. I

have one thing in common with James T. Kirk; I don't believe in a no win scenario. We have imperatives when we engage in *The Game*. Above all, patience would be our by-word and caution our governing principle. We have more small arms and matériel available than the average citizen because we stretched some laws and broke others.

"Our equipment covers a broad range and is significantly improved. The OpFor has more and many things far more powerful than our meager armory. The foreign OpFor uses 7.62×39mm and 5.45×39mm ammo and won't be a source of resupply unless we seize weapons. Since my computer library includes several field manuals and details pertaining to foreign explosive ordnance, especially hand grenades, we could use theirs if we captured any. The bottom line First Sergeant Ott is that you are in total command."

"I should have gone to OCS."

"And, you'd be the oldest 2nd Lieutenant since Nathan Brittles."

"That being the case, my first order is to standby for action, but don't start anything."

"Hey, I just got off the radio. Apparently foreign OpFor troops have entered Fort Smith and Fayetteville."

"And...?"

"They're holding their own. Apparently they're in danger of being overrun and put out a general broadcast requesting assistance from all available 'patriot groups'. Are we going to lend a hand?"

"Derek?"

"I would strongly advise against intervention for the moment. Our force is small and the battle will probably be over before we can get there."

"How long would it take?"

"Five to six hours, if we get lucky. Since Fort Chaffee is near Fayetteville, I've driven there untold times for weekend duties and summer training sessions. We'd better sit this one out until the dust settles before we scout both areas and develop a plan. The first thing that comes to mind is snipping the OpFor. We certainly have the equipment we need to handle the job. There aren't enough of our troops stationed at Fort Chaffee to make much difference in the long run."

Damon kept us updated on the progress of the battle. Despite the tenacity of the Fort Smith group, they were overcome and later Fayetteville fell. One lone ham from Fort Smith managed to remain on the air passing news about events as they happened. The news was all bad. Derek had been right about Fort Chaffee; they put up a valiant de-

fense but fell to the Russians. If the word Damon got was right they took a lot of Russians with them.

“We may just have a chance, Dad. If Damon can hook up that southwestern group with the local group, we might have enough people. I’ll contact Alan and see what they can do.”

“I’ll walk Elizabeth and tote my HK417 with my Taurus. No sense in overdoing it.”

And, I did for 4 blocks, dropped Elizabeth off and did 8 more blocks. I was huffing and puffing the last two blocks. It was lunch time and we were having tomato soup and a grilled cheese sandwich. She does the soup and I do the sandwiches so we don’t have burnt cheese sandwiches. I don’t know what the big deal is; you just have to check the cooking side frequently, like every 30 seconds.

“Alan said they had 14 men including him. Our 6 will bring that to 20. Damon said the southwestern group wanted a piece of the action and could supply just short of 150 very well armed men. He contacted the local group and they have approximately 30. In round numbers, we can put forth a force of about 200, including 34 snipers between Alan’s group and ours.”

“We’re not going to fight them here, are we?”

“I don’t think that would be the best plan. If they’re coming this way, I would assume they’re taking the northern route. Halfway would be the Flippin-Gassville area. It’s a great location for snipers and awful location for troops in trucks and utility vehicles. We have rockets for any light armor. Alan is already on the way since he lives in the Fayetteville area. We’ll meet them at Gassville and get setup.”

“Do they have MultiCam?”

“They have Universal Camouflage Pattern.”

“Is it good enough?”

“It depends on their concealment and cover. I think Alan has several commercial Ghillie suits and they’ve been working to get them just right. They can always add some local foliage like grass and leaves.”

“Damon, what’s the status of the southwestern group?”

“I took a chance and told them to meet us in Gassville. They should be there by the time we pass through.”

“This makes me feel like Hannibal Smith.”

“You love it when a plan comes together?”

“Exactly; I hope I don’t slow you boys down too much.”

“We’ll try to find you a nice place about 500 yards off the road with good cover and concealment. I want to see you puke your guts up after it’s all over.”

“That’s entirely possible. Only a sociopath walks away from violence like we might encounter without feeling something. Any good estimate of the size of the OpFor?”

“Alan said they cut out before they were finished at Fort Chaffee and he doesn’t have a final tally. From what he knew, the Russians losses at Fort Chaffee were significant. Plus they had lost a portion of their force in Fort Smith. He claimed they pulled 2-3 Company sized elements from Little Rock for the western campaign.”

“Spetsnaz?”

“They’re Russian Ministry of Defense Ground Forces, similar to our Special Forces, formerly Spetsnaz GRU.”

“Nobody can throw an entrenching tool 500 yards.”

“You know about those?”

“I bought one from Cold Steel. I couldn’t throw it worth a damn. I wasn’t impressed and prefer the Glock ET or the American ET. Sharp edges belong on knives, not shovels.”

“Did you touch yours up?”

“A few licks with the 1,200 grit and several with the 8,000. The edges are like mirrors and I had to use the thumbnail test because the edges were too sharp to touch. I have my Harpy, Rambo III, bayonet and Latin Machete. I only used the kitchen sharpener on the Machete. I do love those belt sander sharpeners.”

“Is everybody ready to go? Food, water, standard field equipment and plenty of ammo?” There were nodding heads. “Alright, let’s get this show on the road. Everyone say their goodbyes, we leave in 5 minutes.”

“You be careful Gary.”

“Derek said they’d find me a location with good concealment and cover. See you when I get back. Keep the home fires burning.”

TOM – Chapter 13

We were off with some in Damon's Jeep and the rest of us in Derek's pickup. What I wouldn't have given for some M18A1 Claymore mines about then. I couldn't imagine Alan having any, what does a counterfire unit need with Claymore mines? Radar and cannons plus small arms made up their lethal equipment. I had no idea where he'd picked up Mk211MP because that was for Infantry. Ditto the various hand grenades, although the 40mm grenades made a little sense if they had to bug out when a position became untenable and they had to make a fighting withdrawal.

A scant few hours later we were in Gassville and the boys approached the group of fellas that looked out of place for a retirement community. They were equipped with a mixture of M16A1s, A2s, Bushmaster clones, FALs, HK91/PTR-91s and some M1As with good optics. Some even had the improved flashhiders (suppressors).

Yellville is the County Seat for Marion County and when we arrived, it was a ghost town. Alan's group was deployed further west, west of Gassville near the White River bridges and Alan was waiting for us at the courthouse. Derek and he parleyed with the leaders of the Jonesboro and southwestern groups and we set out to deploy to our assigned positions. The Jonesboro group hadn't traveled in our convoy, having departed earlier.

There's something referred to as the defenders advantage and I've thrown around the number 3:1. Add to that the indomitable American spirit and however many of the Spetsnaz troops remained were in a tight squeeze. We didn't know that the Russian commander, cognizant of his losses, had called for and received another Company sized element of Spetsnaz troops. These folks weren't Ministry of Defense Ground Forces but Paramilitary Spetsnaz, reporting to the MVD (Ministry of Internal Affairs). That didn't make them any less capable, only the best had been sent to the US, the maroon berets.

They had a light armor vehicle leading the parade and when it was towards the east end of the kill zone, it was taken out with a Javelin missile (where the hell did that come from). Nearly simultaneously, the tail end Charlie, also an armor vehicle, was taken out with a 2nd Javelin missile. I was out of my league here. When the first vehicle attempted to turn around and retreat to the old bridge, it received an M72A7. The same happened at the front when a utility vehicle tried to bypass the burning armor vehicle.

My 25 round magazines were carefully laid out on a piece of canvas and I'd had a chance to fire ranging shots so my scope was dialed in. I'd taken off the suppressor to keep the action cleaner and because it was broad daylight.

The force ratio was about 1.5:1, commies to good guys. They were very good shots and had very good equipment. The same could be said for us in the shooting department. A lot of ammo had gone down range making sure we could hit what we aimed at. I didn't

know if they had body armor or not so I used the Mozambique Drill (failure to stop), 2 to the body and one to the head. Thank you Colonel Cooper!

Every drop of adrenalin was pulsing through my body and I hadn't been that tense in many years. For a moment I thought my heart would stop from the strain. Unfortunately I didn't have time to worry about it because one of them spotted my position. I should have used the Surefire. I got lucky and someone took him out so I stopped and slid on the suppressor and locked it into place before I resumed firing.

That Tac-50 with the Mk211MP was working down the line disabling their vehicles. It was easy to do because they were blocked in from the front and rear. Point of information; I had 25 25-round magazines loaded to capacity when I started (625 rounds) plus one 50-round drum.

I had gone through drum and 6 magazines by the time the battle was over and before us laid ~300 dead or dying first rate Russian troops. I was petrified and couldn't move from my position for fear of getting shot by one of the wounded. I didn't vomit. I didn't anything except lay there and reload magazines.

The Jonesboro group and the southwestern group attended to the fallen Russians. There were no survivors. Every operating weapon, all the ammunition and other matériel was gathered by the two groups and piled. Wreckers were brought from Gassville and Mountain Home to clear the road. The Russian bodies were transported to Gassville and stacked in a vacant parking lot next to the destroyed/disabled vehicles. A fire truck was used to wash down the scene of the battle. It took a whole tanker of water.

With the ravages of time, any remaining evidence of exactly where the ambush had been staged would disappear. Every piece of brass was collected by the shooters for later reloading. The Russian 'brass', usually steel, was gathered into a pair of large paper drums and unloaded at the parking lot with the bodies and vehicles.

There was a sense of victory but no sense of glory that permeated our combined 4 groups. The remaining Russian soldiers were in Little Rock and that looked to be a very large chaw. We might be able to clear out Little Rock given a large enough force adequately armed. Now that we had Javelin missiles in evidence, we were on an even footing against armor. Of course the range of a Javelin is 75 to 2500 meters and the range of the 2A46M-5 125mm smoothbore cannon on the T-90MS was maybe 2,000 meters. The T-72 Lion of Babylon (Asad Babil) was outclassed by the M1 Abrams, the Challenger and by any other contemporary Western main battle tank during the 1991 Gulf War and the 2003 invasion of Iraq. For example, a 120 mm depleted uranium (DU) AP-FSDS round from an M1 could knock out an Asad Babil tank well beyond 3,000 m, while the effective range of a tungsten-core 125 mm shell was scarcely 1,800 m.

The American tanks destroyed during the Gulf War had been victims of friendly fire. The result was the addition of Combat Identification Panels to vehicles identifying them as friendly when viewed through the thermal imaging gun sight.

“Are you ok?”

“Mostly; didn’t get shot or anything like that. We wiped out those Russian troops. None of the wounded survived after the Jonesboro group and the southwestern group checked them out. We let them keep all the spoils. Apparently the remaining Russian troops are in Little Rock and some thought has been given to assembling a larger force and eliminating them.”

“Do you plan to participate?”

“I haven’t decided but I probably will.”

“You have a death wish.”

“Nobody can live forever. I had a K-pot and body armor plus excellent concealment and cover. I could sure use a drink about now, not that I’d drink it, if you could come up with one. I doubt that battle ran an hour; it was like shooting fish in a barrel or ducks on a pond. I managed not to vomit because I never left my position to check on the enemy casualties.”

The word of our action spread on the amateur net much like other actions were being related. I had been right when I claimed that we might not get along all of the time but when its US against them, the indomitable American spirit come to the fore. The Chinese were on the west coast and not faring any better than their Russian brothers. The country wasn’t divided into sectors, e.g., east and west of the Mississippi and the boundary seemed to be one state west of the Mississippi.

As the actions around the country became more known, people started to dig up their backyards or whatever to get to their guns and ammo. They thereupon joined the cause. When our country was founded, there were two distinct groups, the Federalists and the anti-Federalists. That’s why we have the Bill of Rights. It was intended to bring the anti-Federalists into the fold by clearly listing specific (inalienable) rights and freedoms. Even Ben Franklin wasn’t so sure the new Constitution was the perfect document but he said that in the circumstances it was even better than he expected, saying "There are several parts of this Constitution which I do not at present approve, but I am not sure I shall never approve them." He would accept the Constitution, "because I expect no better and because I am not sure that it is not the best."

The anti-Federalists were led by “Give me liberty or give me death,” Patrick Henry. Thomas Jefferson expressed several anti-federalist thoughts throughout his life, but his involvement in the discussion was limited, since he was stationed as Ambassador to France while the debate over federalism was going on in America in the Federalist papers and Anti-Federalist Papers. But, then, Jefferson thought a little rebellion every 20 years or so was a good thing. *I hold it, that a little rebellion, now and then, is a good*

thing, and as necessary in the political world as storms in the physical. And what country can preserve its liberties if their rulers are not warned from time to time that their people preserve the spirit of resistance? Let them take arms. The remedy is to set them right as to facts, pardon and pacify them. What signify a few lives lost in a century or two? The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants. It is its natural manure.

At the moment the natural manure fertilizing fields around the area mostly spoke Russian or Chinese. Just as Occidentals cannot understand Oriental thinking, Orientals tended to short change this particular group of Occidentals. Someone forgot about Hiroshima and Nagasaki being the final results of the attack on Pearl Harbor. Yamamoto understood Americans better than most Orientals because he'd been educated in the US. He also opposed war against the United States partly because of his studies at Harvard University (1919–1921) and his two postings as a naval attaché in Washington, DC. He learned to speak fluent English as a result.

When he realized that they had failed to take out the aircraft carriers, he allegedly uttered that famous line, "I fear all we have done today is to awaken a great, sleeping giant and filled him with a terrible resolve." But, he also said, "You cannot invade the mainland United States. There would be a rifle behind every blade of grass."

California had some of the strictest firearm laws in the US. Almost every rifle was a banned Assault Rifle unless it had a fixed magazine with a maximum capacity of 10 rounds. Pistols had to be on the approved list in order to be sold in California. Did the state government actually believe that people turned in their Assault Weapons when Roberti-Roos got the law passed? Or turn in the unapproved handguns? Or, registered those .50BMG rifles when they were outlawed?

I not only don't think so, I know so. It wasn't that hard to buy .50BMG ammo in Arizona or Nevada and you didn't need to produce any ID to make the purchase. Armor piercing rounds were legal in California while tracer ammo was illegal due to the potential fire hazard. Sorry no flare guns except aboard boats. Just how in the name of God did they enforce something like that?

I was as sick as a dog with what we assumed was the flu when the action to clear the Russians out of Little Rock occurred. Between vomiting and running to the bathroom incessantly, there simply was no way I could go. I'd loaded up on loperamide to solve the latter problem but threw up shortly before boarding Derek's pickup.

"You're not going. Get your butt in bed and get over this."

"I had my flu shot."

"So? Go home and stay there. If you get to feeling better, you can help out guarding the home place."

He had a look on his face that suggested I'd be more than sorry if I didn't follow orders. I didn't go to bed, but I did make some chamomile tea and have clear beef broth for lunch. The combination seemed to settle my stomach, just as I knew it would, based on my reading of *Expedition*. I read Jerry's story over 15 times and it got so I pretty much knew what the next sentence was. I really loved that story.

Jerry and I had a friendly disagreement over rifles. He had and preferred the PTR-91 while I was a M1A man all the way. He also seemed to favor the Glock handguns. While I'd gone with 3 .45acp Glocks initially, it didn't take me long to replace them with the Taurus PT-1911B-1. In the same vein, I rather liked the Mini-14 despite the accuracy problems. I didn't like Ruger's solution to the problem and those rifles were ugly, but I've said that often. Do you recall my asking Derek, "See if you can find a folding stock AC-556." By golly, he did. I had it barreled with a new, heavier barrel, and it was right up there with my HK416 and 417.

About the time that I felt good enough to be out and about, the boys returned from Little Rock. Damon and Lars had minor flesh wounds, grazing shots that barely broke the skin. Derek was further out and probably a little smarter, he didn't have a scratch. But there was that haunted look again.

"It's time for you to hang it up and finish up your PhD. Get a good teaching job at the university and share our common love, history."

"There are other places that could use our help to clean up their problems."

"Did they help us clear up ours? Everyone involved in cleaning up Arkansas was an Arkansas resident. I'm sorry, but I just can't see us helping them. We need to stay in the area for the unlikely event of the Russians returning or of the Chinese making it to here. I'm getting old and that action over by Gassville took a lot out me. I've had about all the excitement I can handle."

TOM – Epilog

As for the man who would be king, they impeached him trying for him for High Crimes and Misdemeanors, removed him from office and passed a bill denying him the 10 years of Secret Service protection former presidents are entitled to. We think he's hiding in Hawaii.

I think I may agree with Ben Franklin. The Constitution may not be perfect but it's what we have. We can amend it as needed and I'm not so sure that the Supreme Court can't figure out what the Founding Fathers intended. Of course that depends on who put them on the court.

And, so it was with our living out our lives in Arkansas. One of my goals in life was to live at least one day longer than my father. He was ~78½ when he died and I'm now 79. I had birthday just last week. I'm having a great time.

© 2012, Gary D. Ott